Two robbery suspects arrested. PAGE 7
Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival on Nov. 4. PAGE 11

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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LANDING GEAR TROUBLE

Emergency landing

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrerasaipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Star Marianas Airlines aircraft with a malfunctioning landing gear made a successful emergency landing on Runway 24 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International airport last Wednesday at 6:10pm. See LANDING on Page 4

Self-confessed addict gets 3 years in prison for robbing teen student

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A self-confessed drug addict was slapped with a three-year prison term for robbing a student who had just gotten out of school at Mt. Carmel in Chalan Kanoa and was injured after he was dragged by the suspect's car by 50 feet.

The victim's injuries forced him See STUDENT on Page 4

WAGE INCREASE IN GUAM:

'It's going up too fast'

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

While the CNMI experienced 42-percent increase in wages since 2014, according to the 2016 Prevailing Wage and Workforce Assessment Study results released yesterday, in Guam, there is a proposal by its legislature to increase the territory's mini-

See WAGE on Page 4

TOUR OF THE PACIFIC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

H visa provisions affecting the Marianas in the National Defense Authorization Act were on the agenda when newly confirmed assistant secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment Lucian Niemeyer met with Delegarte Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday on Saipan. The Defense Act will be a top priority when Congress resumes in September. Sablan and Niemeyer also discussed the importance of funding the Palau Compact extension in this year's Defense Act; and the two agreed to meet again in Washington, D.C. after Niemeyer completes his tour of the Pacific. Niemeyer, along with Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander of Joint Region Marianas, and their teams also toured Tinian today.

INSIDE

NATION
Harvey's floodwaters start dropping across much of the Houston area.
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ASIA
Will North Korea make missiles over Japan the new normal?
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LIFE & STYLE
When we last saw Mark Hamill, he was a mysterious hooded figure.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Local

Conference seeks to 'rekindle' Marianas historical narratives

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council's 3rd Marianas History Conference will start today at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, focused on "rekindling" the historical narratives of Guam and the Marianas.

Humanities Council executive director Scott Russell said the conference hasn't been done in the last four years.

The third conference was originally scheduled for 2015, but got pushed back another two years due to Typhoon Soudelor.

The 3rd Marianas History Conference will have three keynote speakers and 36 presentations that all relate to Marianas history, Russell said.

The focus of the conference will rotate among historical events that have happened in the Marianas.

This conference will also focus on patching together the Guam and Marianas historical narratives and possibly restore the two islands' tied history.

According to Russell, the CNMI and Guam once shared the same history over 4,000 years ago, but got separated in the last 120 years as a result of the Spanish-American War.

"We're trying to bring the narratives back together, that's why we have the theme 'One

See CONFERENCE on Page 4

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CNMI gets more than $1M TAP and MAP grants

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has just been informed by acting assistant secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula that the Commonwealth has been awarded more than $1 million in finding through the Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program and the Maintenance Assistance Program for key community projects and public services.

TAP grants are awarded on an annual basis through an application process. TAP priorities include, but are not limited to, projects that foster development of an insular area in the following categories: accountability; financial management; economic development; training/education; energy; life; safety; and health issues. MAP grants are used to promote and develop insular institutions and capabilities that improve the operation and maintenance of island infrastructure.

During the grant application process, Torres worked with the Office of Grants Management and various departments in outlining his priorities for key community projects and critical services.

In his letter, Pula outlined the awards for the following TAP projects:

■ $440,000 to the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services for the procurement of a specialized vehicle—a 1,000-gallon four-crew pumper truck.

■ $240,000 to the Department of Public Safety to procure and purchase 10 patrol vehicles.

■ $146,789 to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for Year 1 of the Ma'afala Breadfruit farming program initiative.

The Commonwealth also received $179,596 in MAP funding for the acquisition of a roll-off truck for the Lower Base Transfer Station.

Torres expressed his gratitude to the Office of Insular Affairs for working with him in securing grant awards that addresses his key priorities.

"I want to thank [Interior] Secretary [Ryan] Zinke and… Pula for their work in helping us secure these funds for some key priorities of our community. Our first responders, DPS and DFEMS, work within limited resources, but still do the best they can for all of us in the community. I am grateful that we are able to provide our officers and firefighters the resources they need to patrol our community and address emergency situations. I am pleased that we received funding for our new breadfruit program, which was started by [former governor Eloy S.] Inos, and is now a priority of the [Department of Lands and Natural Resources]. Lastly, the roll-off truck for the transfer station will help our staff make operations easier and effective. These are just some of my key priorities that I worked out with our grants team, and I will continue to work with my department heads to address more priorities for our community." ***(PR)***

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Couple sues Guam insurance firm for not defending them in wrongful death lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A couple is suing a Guam insurance company for allegedly not defending them in a wrongful death lawsuit over a fatal car accident in 2013 that forced them to settle with the decedent's family for $300,000.

» Couple says they were forced to settle with family of fatal car accident for $300,000

Dong-Youl Lim and Moon Hee Ko are suing Pacific Indemnity Insurance Co. in Superior Court for breach of contract, breach of covenant of good faith and fair dealing, violation of the Consumer Protection Act, and fraud and intentional misrepresentation.

Pacific Indemnity Insurance Company, through Robert T. Torres, moved the couple's lawsuit to the U.S. District Court yesterday.

Torres said the plaintiffs are claiming damages that are in excess of $75,000 to warrant the case's removal to the district court on the basis of diversity jurisdiction.

Lim and Ko, through Charles P. Reyes Jr. and William R. Satterberg, asked the Superior Court to hold the insurance company liable to pay them damages, court costs, and attorneys' fees.

Pacific Indemnity Insurance Co. issued an insurance policy to Kim, Ko, and their son, Woo Hyun, on Feb. 26, 2012.

According to Reyes and Satterberg in the complaint, Woo Hyun, while driving the car, hit Jefferson Kiauol Keju on Jan. 2, 2013. Keju was killed after being hit by a second car.

Police and court records showed that Keju had just been beaten up by two men and was running away when he was hit by Woo Hyun's car.

When Pacific Indemnity was told about Keju's death, it notified the couple in writing that the company was the insurer for the accident that Woo Hyun was involved in and it would take exclusive control of all claims made against them as a result of the accident.

On June 23, 2013, Pacific Indemnity responded to a letter from attorney Stephen Nutting on behalf of the decedent's brother, requesting that Nutting provide birth and death certificates of the decedent and any documentation appointing the mother as administrator of Keju's estate.

Reyes and Satterberg said Nutting did so and negotiations were conducted between Pacific Indemnity and Nutting, which resulted in Pacific Indemnity paying $15,000, which it claimed to be the policy limits, to the estate of Keju, in November 2013.

Reyes and Satterberg said this purported settlement was not made by the decedent's personal representative for the benefit of his heirs and did not have court approval as required by the statute.

The lawyers said that, on Dec. 31, 2014, representative of Keju sued the couple.

Pacific Indemnity allegedly informed plaintiffs that it has no responsibility to defend them in the suit and that it would not provide them any defense.

The lawyers said Pacific Indemnity instructed the couple to seek a lawyer to defend them, but informed them that it would not pay for this legal representation.

Threatened with substantial loss resulting from the liability explained to them by Pacific Indemnity, the couple sought a settlement to limit their liability.

On March 14, 2016, the couple agreed to a stipulated judgment against them in the amount of $300,000 in exchange for a covenant not to sue.

Reyes and Satterberg said as a further direct and proximate result of Pacific Indemnity's breach of contract, the plaintiffs were sued for wrongful death and were forced to enter into a settlement to avoid a catastrophic financial loss.

The lawyers said plaintiffs relied on defendant's misrepresentation and fraudulent conduct and were induced to pay the premium and to continue their insurance policy with Pacific Indemnity.

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STUDENT

From Page 1

to quit playing soccer and be absent from school for a time. He had trouble sleeping and subsequently moved back to South Korea, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

In a written order on Wednesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Benjamin Bok Lee to seven years in prison, all suspended except for three years, for robbery and assault and battery.

After completing his three-year prison term, the 27-year-old Lee will be placed on supervised probation for four years. He may apply for parole.

Although he considered Lee's statement of apology and has shown remorse, Govendo said the expression of remorse was centered on Lee's drug addiction problem rather than toward the victim.

Govendo said he must consider the gravity of the crime and the seriousness of the harm done to the victim.

In this case, the judge noted an aspect of violence in that the victim was dragged by Lee, who was driving a moving car.

As a result, Govendo said, the victim sustained several injuries and suffered the emotional turmoil.

"The court finds this factor in favor of imposing a sentence that warrants some jail time," he said.

» Student's injuries forced him to quit soccer, be absent from school, go back to Korea

Lee was ordered to pay $1,204 in restitution to the victim, a $1,000 fine, $125 in court costs, and $560 in probation fee. He was required to complete counseling at the Community Guidance Center during his probation.

Last March 14, Lee pleaded *nolo contendere* (no contest) to robbery and assault and battery.

At the sentencing hearing last Tuesday, assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub, counsel for the government, recommended a sentence of four years imprisonment, followed by probation of three years.

Weintraub said Lee dragged a young man 50 feet along the asphalt of Texas Road as he wrestled away a cell phone.

He took advantage of the victim's trust and their common language, and left him bloody and bruised on the ground, the prosecutor said in her sentencing memorandum.

Weintraub said the incident happened on Feb. 10, 2016, shortly after the victim was getting out of school at Mount Carmel and was walking on Texas Road.

Weintraub said as the victim busied himself with a new phone he had just bought, he heard someone beckoning him in Korean, his native language.

A vehicle driven by Lee had stopped across the street. When the victim approached, Lee asked if he could use the victim's phone.

When the victim refused, Lee pulled his hand, along with the phone, into the vehicle and began to speed off.

Weintraub said the student had to run and hold himself up and against the car to keep from being run over.

After dragging him about 50 feet away, the victim's hand was released and he fell to the ground, scraping a 4-inch gash across his hip, as well as lesser scrapes on his elbows and legs.

Lee drove away with the victim's phone. Lee was eventually arrested, but the phone was never recovered, according to the prosecutor.

Assistant public defender Nancy A. Dominski, counsel for Lee, recommended a sentence of time served.

Dominski said Lee has admitted to the charges and apologized to the court.

Dominski said Lee states that he has been working to address his drug problem, the root of his problems.

Last Aug. 21, police arrested Lee after a surveillance camera led to his identification in connection with the burglary at the home of House of Representatives counsel Joseph Taijeron in Garapan. The case is pending in court.

Lee was also recently arrested for domestic violence after he allegedly assaulted his wife and her male friend at the entrance of Coral Ocean Point in Koblerville. The wife told police that her husband has been using methamphetamine or "ice" again.

Last Aug. 14, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found no probable cause to believe that the crimes of assault and battery and two counts of disturbing the peace were committed in connection with the domestic violence. Camacho dismissed the case without prejudice, which means the prosecution may re-file the case in the future.

CONFERENCE

From Page 2

Archipelago, Many Stories,'" said Russell.

Russell said the conference would feature professional historians, vocational historians, and non-academic historians. "We have opened up our conference for more than just academics."

The conference is free of charge, from 9am to 5pm today and tomorrow.

"You're going to learn a lot, I know I'm going to learn a lot and, if you want to know the history and culture of the Marianas, come on out," said Russell.

Local historian Don Farrell, who was a speaker at the last history conference, urges the community to come out and hear the different topics and presentations today.

According to Farrell, "come to this conference and listen to the people who write the encyclopedia…it's much more personal, much more dynamic."

WAGE

From Page 1

mum wage for the third time in two years.

According to Guam Chamber of Commerce chair Bobby Shringi, the concern within the island's business community is that wages are "going too fast, too quick."

And that will have wide-ranging impacts on Guam, Shringi said. "A lot of small businesses will be impacted. The cost of goods is going to be impacted. …It's the small ones, they are the ones going to be impacted.

"When your operating costs go up, what is the first thing you increase? What's the first thing you do? You either find a way to reduce your operating expense, which is to reduce [the number of] employees, or increase your costs. That is where the challenges come in," he added.

At the last Saipan Chamber of Commerce general meeting, Shringi thinks the CNMI mirrored what Guam did in 2015.

"Guam changed its wage in 2015. So we went from $7.25 to $8.25 and I believe that the CNMI is now at $7.25. When the CNMI finally caught up with Guam, Guam pumped it up by another dollar Now, there is a proposal on the table to take it all the way to $10.10 in two years. Businesses have just absorbed a huge impact in 2015, now lawmakers are saying we are going to take this $8.25 to $9.20 and ultimately to $10.10 in 2019."

"This is not really about the large entities because a lot of the large companies are not even in that position where they have a number of employees earning minimum wage. So the impact isn't great for them."

Shringi questions the timing of the wage increases. "During that time, Dusit Thani has just opened with 700 employees, JRC has just brought in several hundred new employees. Applebee's and iHop just hired another 100-plus employees. So was this a business boom because of the minimum wage or was the timing perfect?

According to Shringi, the business community in Guam knows that a wage increase could happen. "The reality is it's a hot potato issue. Unfortunately, there's an election season that is looming so something is going to pass.

"So instead of fighting this, rather than putting the armor in front of you, let's work with lawmakers and see what's palatable, what's balanced and maybe, instead of going up by $2 over a two-year period, maybe we can go up $0.95 cents over a two-year period. That still represents a 6-percent and a 5-percent increment, respectively. Keep in mind that in the private sector, the 85-percent increase per increment is typically a high increment. Meaning, you've done really well this past year and we are giving you a 5-percent increase, 3 to 5 percent is the norm. It's fair, it's palatable, businesses have enough time to absorb it so that really the big thing," Shringi said.

"The worst thing is going across the board," he added.

According to Shringi, he knows it is the resolve of the Guam legislature to pursue some form of wage increase. But the Guam Chamber of Commerce would like to reach out in order to reach a "palatable" discussion.

A possible solution to increase a person's take home pay without touching wages is the creation of a tip credit program that allows the F&B industry to use a certain portion of tips for wage hikes. "It sort of caps the wage at a certain level. As minimum wage goes up, tips can be applied towards the difference between the current minimum wage and future minimum wage."

"Guam has had that policy for a long time, many states already do. But it just suddenly disappeared a few years ago. Let's re-create it. That would actually protect the F&B industry from raising its costs, especially the hotels and restaurants," Shringi said.

There is also a youth minimum wage because studies show that when minimum wage increases, those impacted are the young ones. "So there will be a cap-skilled workers here, unskilled workers there. Minors are not looking for a career, they are looking for part-time jobs so they can take care of bills and possibly pay for college."

The Guam Chamber of Commerce is also asking its legislature to look into the Dave Santos Act, which is a gross revenue tax exemption issue "so small businesses can at least get something to offset an increase in minimum wage,"

"The Guam Chamber believes that wage increase should be dictated by market forces, not by government methods. That is the sole intent of the organization and the position we continue to preach but then there's the reality of what is politically right," he said.

LANDING

From Page 1

On board were five passengers and two crewmember, including Capt. Jun Shimada, the airline's chief pilot who was operating the Piper PA-31-350 Chieftain.

Shimada was able to land the aircraft safely at the Saipan airport with all its passengers and crew unharmed.

Star Marianas president Shaun Christian commended Shimada for expertly landing the aircraft even if its landing gear didn't fully extend for landing.

"We are grateful to him for not forgetting his training and was not overwhelmed by the situation. No harm was brought to the passengers and crew and only minimal damage on the aircraft. He handled it as a true professional that he is."

The flight departed on time from Rota's Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport at 4:45pm. Immediately after taking off, Shimada reported experiencing multiple bird strikes that forced him to retract the aircraft's landing gear.

Christian said that Shimada noticed a flock of birds, 10 to 20 of them, that crossed paths with the aircraft.

According to the Star Marianas press release, Shimada reported that the gear indicator did not light up to confirm if the gear truly retracted but noticed a decrease in the normal cruising airspeed. By the time they were approaching Tinian, Shimada attempted to extend the landing gear and noted that the hydraulic pressure was insufficient.

Shimada made several low passes on Tinian so the Star Marianas maintenance facility on island can assess the situation and confirmed that only the right main gear was partly extended. After several attempts to lower the gear, a decision was made to continue the flight to Saipan and land on Runway 24.

Christian said the emergency landing did not disrupt any flights coming in and out of the airport. "The aircraft continued to stay in the air for 45 minutes to burn fuel to reduce landing weight. This gave Cape Air time to depart on schedule."

"The aircraft landed smoothly and Saipan's Airport Rescue and Firefighting personnel were there. The passengers were transported safely in vehicles provided by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Everything worked well," he added.

Star Marianas reported that upon landing, the aircraft's right main wheel was extended, but the left main and nose wheel remained in the upward position. This caused the aircraft's left wing to contact the ground as the aircraft slowed to a stop and slid unto the grass past the Delta taxiway.

CPA executive director Chris Tenorio was relieved that nothing untoward happened with the Star Marianas aircraft's passengers and crew.

"We are glad that the passengers are safe and sound as that is our main concern. Despite what happened, we conducted normal operations and everything went smoothly," he said.

Tenorio added that they are still waiting for the final reports of the ARFF and Saipan's Air Operations Area before they can issue an official statement about the incident as they are still compiling everything.

"At the moment, our issue now is to be able to find equipment to move the aircraft. We need cranes and currently, there are no cranes available on island. We are working hard to find equipment and we are happy to say that the aircraft is definitely repairable," Christan said.

"Right now, the report from Shimada is unchanged as there was no injury and despite what happened, we assure the public that Star Marianas continues its operations to serve them," he added.

Christian said that Shimada has been working with Star Marianas for six years but has been flying longer than that.

"Shimada is a lover of aviation. Even in his off days, it's hard to keep him away from doing any work for Star Marianas. We are glad we have him on board," he said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Public school closed today and Monday

All CNMI public schools will be closed today, Sept. 1, in observance of CNMI Labor Day festivities, and on Monday, Sept. 4, in observance of the CNMI Labor Day legal holiday. All schools, including Early Head Start, Head Start, elementary, middle and high schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota will be closed.

Classes and services will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017 for all schools except for the Early Head Start and Head Start Programs, which have school-level Professional Development Day on Sept. 5, 2017. For Early Head Start and Head Start Programs, classes will resume on Sept. 6.

Contact the school or the Office of the Commissioner at (670) 237-3061 for any questions. ***(PR)***

Chamber meeting on Wednesday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have a general membership meeting on Wednesday next week, Sept. 6, at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort. The luncheon begins at 11:30am and the meeting starts promptly at noon.

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman will talk about the Prevailing Wage Survey and update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Japan Consul Kinji Shinoda will share information about the Japan Exchange and Teaching program.

We will also launch a new project of the Saipan Young Professionals Committee, which will engage the entire community in enhancing the lives of the youth. ***(SCC)***

CNMI Scholarship deadline for NMC's PLA Program extended

The CNMI Scholarship Office has extended the deadline to submit scholarship applications for the Prior Learning Assessment program to Sept. 8, 2017. Students who would like to apply for financial aid for NMC's PLA program can submit a scholarship application to the CNMI Scholarship

See COMMUNITY on Next Page

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WEC Wireless Express Center
Monday to Friday
9:00am to 6:00pm
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Monday, Wednesday, Friday
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WORLD MASSAGE
Special Local Promotion
$17.00 Body Massage 60 minutes
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VISIT 10 TIMES - GET 1 FREE
For more information, please
Call 234-1504 and ask for Wang
Located in Beach Road, Susupe,
2nd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building

McDonald's employees treated to special dinner

McDonald's Saipan gave a special dinner treat to its Employees of the Quarter to recognize their hard work and provide them with an incentive that also allowed company officials to know them more.

The dinner treat at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Tepanyaki Restaurant took place last Tuesday, Aug. 29, and was also a part of McDonald's reward program for outstanding employees.

The dinner is being hoped to give these employees a chance to know their organization leaders better. They were joined at dinner by McDonald's president and CEO Jose C. Ayuyu, owner/operator Marcia E. Ayuyu, and restaurant general manager Joe E. Ayuyu Jr. ***(PR)***

From left, McDonald's Saipan general manager Joe E. Ayuyu Jr., McDonald's Middle Road Employee of the 1st Quarter Larigie A. Achas, Jeanette Keremius, owner/operator Marcia E. Ayuyu, McDonald's Saipan and Guam president and CEO Joe C. Ayuyu, Shannie Camacho, and Rocsan Mendoza.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Standing, left to right, Rocsan Mendoza, Employee of the 1st Quarter Garapan Branch; Larigie A. Achas, Employee of the 1st Quarter Middle Road Branch; and McDonald's Saipan owner/operator Marcia E. Ayuyu. Seated, from left, Jeanette Keremius, Employee of the 2nd Quarter Garapan Branch; and Shannie Camacho, Employee of the 2nd Quarter Middle Road Branch.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GLUSHKO'S ACADEMY
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OR EMAIL: GLUSHKOSACADEMY@YAHOO.COM
LOCATION: MOUNT CARMEL, ROOM 103,
1ST FLOOR OF ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

COMMUNITY

From Page 5

Office in Capitol Hill no later than Sept. 8, 2017. For more information, contact Raymond Muna by calling 237-6746 or emailing raymond.muna@marianas.edu. Additional information is also available at marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Naval Base Guam to test Giant Voice system

SANTA RITA, Guam— U.S. Naval Base Guam will conduct routine testing of the vital communication and advance warning system, "Giant Voice," on Sept. 5 starting at 3pm. Residents in surrounding areas of the GV speakers should only hear short verbal tests of the system, including warning tones. This is a monthly test that typically falls on the first Monday of each month. ***(PR)***

JKPL closed until Tuesday

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will resume normal hours on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017. It will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4, 2017, and Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017. ***(PR)***

Philippine e-passports now ready for release

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with honorary consul Eli Arago in the CNMI, is now releasing new passports to those who renewed their passport last July 10,11,12 and 13, 2017. You can pick up your new passports at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Bldg D, second floor, on top of the Mini-Mart Store, from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm (12-1pm is break time). Bring your old passport and receipt. For any inquiry or details call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

PH consular outreach in September

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam will be holding a mobile outreach on Saipan on Sept. 8 to Sept. 11 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. It will accommodate 640 applicants who pre-registered for passport renewal.

If an individual wants to avail of one of the 640 slots available for the outreach program, they must call the office of Philippine honorary consul to the Commonwealth Glicerio Arago at 233-6293. The individual has to set up the renewal appointment with Mel Santos. ***(PR)***

GRANDVRIO RESORT
SAIPAN
* Breakfast: 7:00am-10:00am * Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm *Sunday Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm *Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm
RESTAURANT TROPICANA
Welcome to enjoy fantastic buffet at our Tropicana Restaurant (2nd floor of Taga Tower).
Performance is available on Sunday Brunch. All you can eat and drink! Sushi, Sashimi, Ham, Rib Eye, Champagne, beers...
SUN: Breakfast Buffet $17 Sunday Brunch $22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)
MON: Breakfast Buffet $17
TUE: Breakfast Buffet $17 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)
WED: Breakfast Buffet $17 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)
THU: Breakfast Buffet $17
FRI: Breakfast Buffet $17 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)
SAT: Breakfast Buffet $17 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)
RESTAURANT DOLPHIN
(10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan)
has reopened as A-La-Carte restaurant. Welcome to enjoy fast & nice Lunch Menu ($8~) and authentic Japanese Shabu Shabu or Sukiyaki for your dinner ($35). "Spectacular Ocean View and Sunset!" Dolphin restaurant brings out "Daily Chef's Special Lunch" from Mon. to Fri.; EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT! $12 only, 15 servings per day; "First In First Out!"
Opening time:
Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm
Last Order: 1:30pm
Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm
Last Order: 8:30pm
Starlight BBQ
Dinner Buffet Location:
Poolside Price: Reg. AD $39 CH: $19
(Local: AD $35/ CH $17)
Business Hours: 6pm-9pm
Menu: "All you can eat & drink"
Beers, red & white wine, soft drinks, oolong tea and juices.
AIRI COFFEE LOUNGE
Come and taste delicious curry & sandwich set ($7.00 only), cake, café latte, organic smoothies… with unique ocean view.
Business Hours: 10:00am-6:00pm
Pizza Set ($10.00) available now!
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Business Hours: 1pm-10pm
Last Order: 9:30pm
Happy Hour: 4pm - 7pm
20% Discount available for all drinks including cocktails!
For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

Ruben

Chipuelong

Two robbery suspects arrested

Police have arrested two men who are believed to have robbed a woman of her bag in Garapan early Thursday morning.

Police responded yesterday, at about midnight, to a robbery incident by the Noodle House intersection of Palm Street and Plumeria Avenue in Garapan.

The first responding unit (police car) was approaching the crime scene when the officer noticed a white Toyota Corolla four-door sedan driving away from the crime scene. The officer radioed the license plate and a description of the car to DPS Central.

Police arrived at the area and met with the victim, a 22-year-old Asian female. The victim was with her friend, also a 22-year-old Asian female, and learned that both women were walking on Palm Street toward the Noodle House when the suspect—described as male, wearing a black hat and black T-shirt—approached the women and grabbed the victim's bag from her shoulder. The victim struggled with the suspect, who pushed her to the ground, causing her to fall and sustain minor injuries. The suspect ran north toward Ginger Street.

An eyewitness saw the crime and told police the suspect fled in a white Toyota Corolla. The eyewitness provided police with the license plate number of the car, which matched the description and license plate seen by the first responding unit. Another patrol car spotted the suspect's car by the 99 Cent store on Middle Road. Other units assisted and the suspect's car was pulled over by the CNMI Museum (across the street from the Sugar King Park in China Town) along Chalan Pale Arnold Road.

Police officers took two males into custody. They were identified as Angel Ruben, 21, and Lucky Chipuelong, 30. Inside the car was the victim's purse and evidence related to the crime. Both suspects were arrested and charged with robbery, theft, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. The suspects were transported to the Department of Corrections for booking and detention. ***(DPS)***

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Financing Available
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5.40% APR
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2017 Honda HR-V LX 2WD MT retail price $22,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of $350.54 or $161.79 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,032.40.

MILITARY TALKS

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres met yesterday morning with Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment Lucian L. Niemeyer, who was joined by Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield and Randel L. Sablan, director of the CNMI Joint Region Marianas Coordination Office. In a statement, Torres said: "…We had a very productive discussion about the threats from North Korea, the ongoing Guam military buildup, and the Tinian divert airfield project. I look forward to working with him and [Chatfield] as we continue to constructively discuss military activities surrounding the CNMI and our people."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Russian group to visit Rota Coconut Festival

A familiarization tour being organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority will bring Russian media to the Rota Coconut Festival in September.

Five magazines representing Russian airlines will explore the allures of Tinian on Sept. 15, the natural beauty and warm island hospitality of Rota on Sept. 16, and the attractions of Saipan on the remaining days of their tour.

Scheduled to join the tour are *Aeroflot*, the inflight magazine of the nation's No. 1 air carrier by the same name; Ural Airlines' magazine and *JetSet*, an inflight magazine for the business class of Ural Airlines; *VIM* magazine of VIM Airlines; *S7* magazine of S7 Airlines; and *Uyutnoe Nebo*, the UTair Aviation inflight magazine.

"We know that Russian tourists typically stay longer and aren't hesitant to spend more for a quality vacation, which makes side trips to Rota and Tinian ideal for a deeper experience during their stay in the Marianas," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "With this broad promotional outreach, we will reach the travelling public—and in some cases the wealthy travelling public—via these five major airlines in Russia. The Rota Coconut Festival will be a wonderful opportunity for them to see and taste some of the best memories the Marianas can offer."

Festivities for the weeklong Rota Coconut Festival kick off with a proclamation signing on Sept. 11 at 9am by Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig at the Office of the Mayor. The theme is "I Niyok Para Hagu Yan Guahu" (Coconut for You and Me).

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, residents and visitors will be planting coconut seedlings.

On Wednesday, Sept. 13, government workers and others will wear clothes or accessories made from various parts of the coconut tree.

The best Chamorro huts will be judged on Thursday, Sept. 14, at the Joaquin Ogo "Tun Kindo" Baseball Field in Songsong Village, where the first evening of the night market from 6pm to 10pm will feature various food vendors and live entertainment. The night market will continue on Friday and Saturday evenings at the same time.

Friday, Sept. 15, will bring a full-day focus on the various uses and benefits of the coconut tree beginning at 9am, including its history, a display of various sizes and colors of the coconut, a detailed description of tree parts, threats to the species, models of huts built with coconut and palm, value-added products, a display of clothing and accessories, medicinal uses, and samples of carvings and weavings.

Special highlights will include coconut oil production, coconut frond weaving, coconut husking and grating, *ayuyu* (coconut crab) hunting display, furniture-making, and *manha* (young coconut meat) *titiyas*, coconut candy and coconut juice sampling,

The final day of the festival on Sept. 16 will open with a fashion show, followed by open competitions in coconut husking and grinding. Festival-goers will have a chance to cheer for their favorite entry in the Ayuyu Race. Saturday will also tantalize the taste buds with cooking competitions for the following dishes: *manha titiyas*, *manha* pie, *apigigi* (roasted young coconut), doughnuts, coconut candy, *ahu* (sweet, young coconut soup), *miso ayuyu* soup, and other dishes.

The weeklong event is organized by the Rota Mayor's Office with support from Rota Municipal Council, Rota Legislative Delegation, Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and all other government agencies.

For more information, contact special assistant for Programs and Grants Aubry Hocog of the Rota Mayor's Office at 532-9451 or aubryhocog@gmail.com or Sandra Atalig of the MVA at 532-0327 or satalig@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Rina de la Cruz, who is celebrating her special day today, Sept. 1. Have a wonderful birthday and we wish you all the happiness in life. Keep being healthy and we wish you more birthdays to come. Greetings come from the staff and management of World Tour & Travel.

Town House

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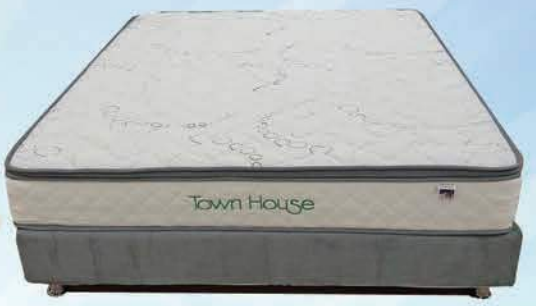
Sale $74
REG. PRICE $79
2 DOOR SHOE CABINET
(SC-242-EPS)

Sale $159
REG. PRICE $169
NOVA BOOKCASE
(BS-6020-AOK)

Sale $99
REG. PRICE $139
COMPUTER TABLE
CT-1421



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$349
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(GTS16DTHWW)

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8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DISCOVER MasterCard VISA

Joeten Superstore management presents their sponsorship donation to MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero and Tasi Watch rangers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

As of September 01, 2017
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy'Z II Marine (formerly SS/LR-95-X-265)	7/31/2017 Issued new # SSLR-2017-X-082	Marine Sports-Renewal Jetski Operation	Susupe, Saipan	Multiple APCs	Approved-8/25/2017
2. Ji Li Corporation dba Xinbada Diving Club	8/7/2017 SLR-2017-X-083	Marine Sports-New SCUBA Operation	All Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-8/8/2017
3. Micronesia Resort Inc. dba Kensington Hotel	8/11/2017 SMS-2017-X-086	Transfer of Interest	San Roque, Saipan	Major Siting Amendment	Under Review
4. Ji Li Corporation dba Xinbada Snorkeling	8/15/2017 SLRm-2017-X-089	Marine Sports-New Snorkeling & Kayaking Operation	Garapan & Marpi, (Grotto) Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-8/22/2017
5. Thank You Saipan Corporation dba Thank You Saipan Diving	8/15/2017 SLR-2017-X-090	Marine Sports-New SCUBA Operation	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-8/25/2017
6. Himawari Saipan Inc. dba Himawari Anex	8/25/2017 SMS-2017-X-091	Four story building with 50 hotel units	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review
7. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy'Z II Marine	8/14/2017 SLRm-98-X-137 Issued new # SLR-2017-X-092	Marine Sports-Renewal Banana Boat Operations	Susupe, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-8/25/2017
8. J&K Marine Sports (formerly SLRm-94-X-135)	8/15/2017 Issued new # SLR-2017-X-093	Marine Sports-Renewal Banana Boat Operations	Susupe, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-8/25/2017
9. Song & Jang Corporation dba B&B Grotto	8/17/2017 SLRm-2017-X-094	Marine Sports-New Snorkeling Tour Operations	Marpi, (Grotto), & Wing Beach, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-8/25/2017
10. Changjiang Corporation dba Eagle Marine Sports	8/17/2017 SLRm-2015-X-040	Marine Sports-Renewal Snorkeling Tour Operations	Mañagaha Island & Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-8/25/2017
11. JB Corporation dba Saipan Fresh Adventure	8/18/2017 SLRm-2017-X-095	Marine Sports-New Snorkeling Tour Operations	Marpi (Grotto), Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-8/25/2017
12. Pelley Boat Charters, Inc.	8/22/2017 SPI-2017-X-096	Drydock	North Seaplane Ramp, Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
13. SPN-US Corporation dba Happy Snorkeling	8/23/2017 SLRm-2017-X-097	Marine Sports-New Snorkeling Tour Operations	Marpi (Grotto), Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-8/25/2017
14. MP Holdings, LLC. dba Saipan Vegas	8/25/2017 SMS-2017-X-098	50 unit hotel with golf course and retrofit of existing building for cafe and E-Gaming	Chalan Laulau, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review*
15. Phillip's Corporation, Inc.	8/28/2017 SLRm-2017-X-099	Marine Sports-New Snorkeling Tour Operations	Marpi (Grotto), Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-8/29/2017
16. Poong Won Corporation dba dba Lavista Tour	8/29/2017 SLRm-2017-X-100	Marine Sports-New Snorkeling Tour Operations	Chalan Kanoa, District 4 & Marpi (Grotto), Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major siting's. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Green Gala sponsors: Joeten Enterprises, Joeten Motors

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With a donation that totaled $7,000 in all, Joeten Enterprises and Joeten Motors Co. have signed on as sponsors of the upcoming Green Gala of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

Joeten Enterprises and Joeten Motors presented their sponsorship checks to MINA last Tuesday.

MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero, who received the checks, said that she and the staff at MINA are excited about the Joeten sponsorship.

"We really are excited about the participation of Joeten in our efforts to put this Green Gala together," she said.

Guerrero also said all the donations really push their agenda forward to build a culture that recycles and protects the environment and they are grateful for that financial push.

According to both Joeten Motors president Frances Demapan and Joeten Enterprises manager Jose Tenorio, they wholeheartedly support MINA's purpose, hence the decision to become sponsors of the Green Gala.

In addition, Joeten Motors and the Joeten supermarket chains have been initiating ways to help protect the environment.

Joeten Motors' used oil burner ensures that used oil do not end up polluting the islands' waters. The used oil burner is a process where used oil from vehicles is burned instead of being thrown out.

The dealership also recycles coolant. According to Demapan, coolant that isn't completely tapped out is gathered and sold again.

The company uses solar energy to power its facilities through the net metering system of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Demapan acknowledged that the car industry plays a role in pollution. "I honestly feel that, in the car business, we are also held accountable because we have so many cars that we're selling and running on the road, so we should do our part too," said Demapan.

The Joeten supermarket chain has also initiated ways to protect the environment like their eco-bags, box donations, and Taya Plastic Tuesdays campaign.

Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival on Nov. 4, 2017

The Marianas Visitors Authority will debut its newest signature event, the Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival on Nov. 4, 2017, on Saipan.

The festival will pair Marianas brews with island-style barbecue and other appetizers beside the Saipan lagoon at Garapan Fishing Base.

"Everyone knows one of the most iconic things to do in the Marianas is to kick back on the weekend with some cold drinks, some fresh chasers, and your friends and family. The Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival will highlight that experience," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, in announcing the event. "Beer festivals are also popular in our main source markets, which will make this event a great added attraction for visitors."

The festival is scheduled from 5pm to 10pm and will feature a special signatory beer glass that patrons can use throughout the event and keep as a souvenir.

The event will be open to adults age 21 and older (21 is the legal drinking age in the Marianas).

Slated to participate are Saipan Brewing Co., which manufactures the only locally brewed beer in the Marianas, as well as six companies distributing craft beers: Pacific Trading Co, MarPac, Franken Brau, West Pac, Dickerson & Quinn, and Samcorp Import.

For more information, contact Community projects specialist Ray Villagomez of the MVA at 664-3200/1 or rvillagomez@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

FILM FESTIVAL MEETING

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, MVA China representative Laura Xiao, and Imperial Pacific International executive vice president Tao Xing met this week with officials of the Marianas International Film Festival led by its chairman, Xiang Guo, at their Beijing headquarters. The festival, launched on June 24 this year, is intended to be a platform to promote unity, harmony, and world peace.

MIFF

Ex-governor Babauta on humanities program

This Sunday's "Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program will feature Juan N. Babauta, former governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, speaking on his recent book, *In Retrospect*.

Babauta shares his life story in the book, including his experience as a student in Vermont, his postsecondary education and early career focusing on public health, his political career as a senator, CNMI representative in Washington, D.C., and his term as CNMI chief executive.

"Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program, which airs each Sunday from 2pm to 2:30pm on Power 99, is hosted by Catherine Perry Harris.

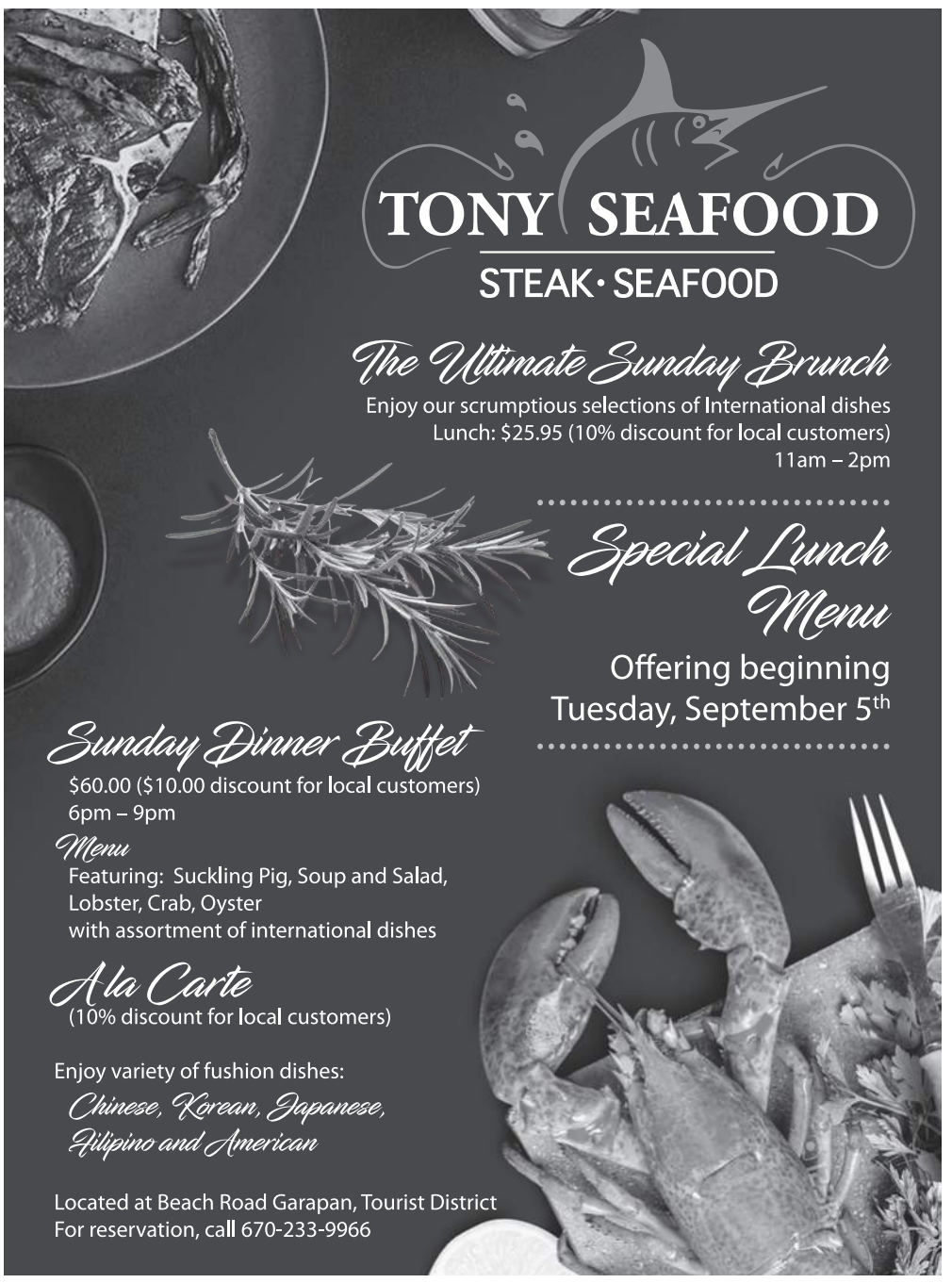
Magnitude 5.2 earthquake hits southeast coast of Guam

INARAJAN VILLAGE, Guam (AP)—A magnitude 5.2 earthquake has struck the island of Guam.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the earthquake hit at 8 a.m. Wednesday in Guam. The epicenter was 51.7 miles (83.4 kilometers) southeast of Inarajan Village, a community of about 2,300 people.

The earthquake had a depth of 6 miles (10 kilometers.)

North Korea threatened recently to launch ballistic missiles into waters near Guam. However, leader Kim Jong Un said later that he would watch Washington's conduct before executing the plan.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The Ultimate Sunday Brunch
Enjoy our scrumptious selections of International dishes
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Special Lunch Menu
Offering beginning
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Sunday Dinner Buffet
$60.00 ($10.00 discount for local customers)
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Featuring: Suckling Pig, Soup and Salad,
Lobster, Crab, Oyster
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Located at Beach Road Garapan, Tourist District
For reservation, call 670-233-9966

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

In celebration of Commonwealth Preparedness Month,
CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management,
would like to invite the community to attend the upcoming:

CNMI Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
OPEN HOUSE

WHEN: September 6-8, 2017

TIMES: Walkthroughs/Presentations:
10 AM
2 PM

WHERE: CNMI EOC, Capitol Hill, Saipan
(Behind CNMI Dept. of Finance)

WHO IS INVITED: The CNMI Community to include Partners, Stakeholders, Private Citizens, Community Leaders

WHY: The EOC Open House provides an opportunity for all concerned citizens to partake in a tour of the CNMI Emergency Operations Center. In addition, a preparedness brief will be conducted by staff to discuss Preparedness Measures and upcoming weather outlook for the rest of the 2017.

HOW: Contact your Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000 or (670) 664-8000 to confirm seating. Seats are FREE and limited.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

The yearslong recovery from Hurricane Harvey

The scale of flooding in the Houston area as a result of Hurricane Harvey is hard to imagine, and the images of suffering are horrifying to behold. What Brad Kieserman, vice president of Red Cross, described as "the most catastrophic event" he has ever seen has killed several people, displaced tens of thousands and wrecked untold numbers of homes, commercial and industrial buildings, highways, bridges and harbors.

It has also created human misery on a vast scale. Thirty Texas counties, which together have nearly 7 million residents, already have been declared disaster areas. Nearly half a million people may ultimately need disaster assistance. The physical and emotional wounds inflicted on victims won't heal overnight.

One heartening aspect of the catastrophe is the heroic effort of so many locals who've used every means they had to rescue those stranded and in danger. Another was the response of other cities in the region. "We will do whatever it takes," promised San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, who expects a large influx of evacuees from Houston, 200 miles to the east. "No one will be turned away."

No doubt Americans will respond quickly and generously to the catastrophe, sending contributions to groups that minister to those in need—from well-known organizations like the Salvation Army and the Red Cross to local food pantries, diaper banks and shelters. Numerous big corporations have made large pledges, including $1 million apiece from Walmart, Pepsico and Amazon. Volunteers are arriving by the hour to do what they can.

The federal and state governments have a big role to play. On top of the search and rescue efforts undertaken and coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Congress may have to come up with additional funds to assist in overcoming this gargantuan disaster.

Americans who want to help shouldn't limit their focus to the Houston area. Much of the Texas Gulf Coast was devastated, and much of southern Louisiana, too, is at high risk of flooding.

But it's also important to remember Houston and neighboring areas once the sun is shining. Recovering from a natural disaster on this immense scale takes a long time. If someone asks how long New Orleans needed to recover from Hurricane Katrina, in 2005, the best answer would be: We're still waiting to find out. "We are going to be dealing with this all the way through Christmas," predicted Kieserman in an interview with NPR. Repairing and rebuilding will take not months, but years.

Americans are a generous people, quick to respond to devastating emergencies by opening their checkbooks and rolling up their sleeves. For all of us, FEMA Administrator Brock Long had some sound advice: "Donate your money. Figure out how you can get involved as we help Texas find a new normal." We would add: And keep doing that long after the floodwaters recede.

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IPI's world-class corporate social responsibility program

First of a two-part column

By GERI DELACRUZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Geri Dela Cruz is the executive director of Imperial Pacific International Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility.

Editor's Note: The following is being published in two parts due to its length.

Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility work has clearly become a force in the community. Only two years since its inception, its imprint on the islands' consciousness has already become significant.

This feat is primarily rooted in IPI's community outreach and, to date, has served an unprecedented number of the Commonwealth's population through various initiatives. Its community engagement has raised business-community partnership to new heights.

Since 2015, it has been at the forefront in protecting the environment, preserving and promoting the islands' culture, supporting public education, and advocating for the health of the community.

The CNMI government and major nongovernmental organizations have recognized IPI's community support and outreach as responsible and of great value, with an unprecedented joint legislative recognition given to a company.

Should anyone ever ask you where you were on the evening of Aug. 2, 2015, one would venture to say that most of you would have readily available a detailed account of every minute of that evening. Let us not be reminded of the horrors we all awoke to on the morning after Typhoon Soudelor struck. The devastation was reflected in the faces of everyone around the island. There were people standing in the streets and on top of collapsed roofs in utter disbelief that everything was destroyed. The beautiful island paradise had been, in just a matter of hours, pulverized and leveled, leaving only an unrecognizable wreck.

It was in the midst of this tragic disaster that one saw just how resilient the CNMI is. In the early morning hours Saipan residents were already working to remove debris, trying to salvage whatever they could of their property and offering a helping hand to their neighbors.

Beach Road had become a jungle no one could penetrate, with fallen trees as tall as buildings littering our roadways for miles. Interestingly, unlike the shallow-rooted flame trees that line Beach Road or the Australian pine trees at the American Memorial Park, both of which suffered severe damage in the typhoon, the deep-rooted banyan, known to many as the *Taotao mona'* tree, withstood the strong winds. It may be true that some of its branches were torn away during the storm, but nonetheless the *Taotao mona'* tree continues to stand in our islands today.

It is only fitting that the *Taotao mona'* tree would be the most resilient tree in such a storm. The people of the CNMI revere this tree as a home for the spirits of our ancestors. And like our ancestors, we stay deeply rooted in our culture so that we remain strong as a people. There is a saying, "When the roots are deep, there is no need to fear the wind."

2015 to now

Imperial Pacific International, in the hopes of benefitting the community, initiated as part of their operations a department solely dedicated to social good, the Corporate Social Responsibility or CSR team.

Since 2015, CSR has grown into a robust, sustainable program, composed of 30 local-born-and-raised members with a variety of skills and talents. Since its inception, the CSR team has successfully directed the company's resources into the community without compromising local culture and traditions.

CSR has been a partner in our community for almost two years. Although we are primarily situated on the island of Saipan, we have extended our services and community outreaches to our sister islands of Rota and Tinian.

CSR is definitely a new term in our community. Most know us by the acronym "CSR" versus its full meaning—Corporate Social Responsibility. This is primarily due to the numerous partnerships we have established with our government and non-government organizations.

Over the past two years, CSR has collaborated with over 70 partners and mobilized over 1,000 volunteers. We partnered in and organized close to 400 CSR events, contributed over 180,000 man-hours in our communities, and made over $850,000 in community donations.

Environment

In the immediate aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor, Imperial Pacific International played a crucial role in providing humanitarian aid and disaster relief to the community. We knew that the community needed assistance to recover from this disaster and therefore immediately contributed to the American Red Cross and other organizations. We joined Karidat and other service organizations in delivering basic necessities to families around the island. We partnered with the Saipan Mayor's Office in recovery efforts around the island, which included debris cleanup in the villages.

Imperial Pacific donated a total of $750,000 (cash and in-kind), contributed over 24,000 man-hours and reached about 30 villages in its effort to help the CNMI recover in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

To be continued on Monday

Tales of a mountain man

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

My June road trip has now stretched into September. One consequence is $166.18 in additional beef jerky and RC Cola expenditures. There have been other expenditures as well. Yes, I've got some explaining to do. We might as well get started.

In my defense, I'll start by noting a broad distinction. In Saipan's climate keeping cool is, of course, the big thing. In the mountains, by contrast, keeping warm is the big thing. Many people heat their homes with wood stoves and around these parts the first frost hits in September.

With this in mind I sought the counsel of a local woodsman. I wanted to produce some firewood for a property owner who I'm visiting. The property owner is girding for her first winter in the northern climes. Her acreage is full of trees.

The woodsman surveyed the scene. He said there are enough fallen trees to last a winter. There's no need to mess with the standing trees; not now, anyway.

He gave me the plan. "First you buck that stuff into rounds," he said. "Then you split the rounds. It looks like you'll be able to get a few cords out of this wood."

The process of slicing up the trees already on the ground is called "bucking." This requires a chain saw. He said he'd be back in a week to show me that end of things.

The slices of a bucked tree are called "rounds." My task in the intervening week was to split some rounds that we found on the east side of the property. Splitting converts the rounds into logs that will fit into the stove.

The old-school way to split rounds is with a maul, which is a type of fat-headed axe. A typical maul weighs eight lbs. I get my history from Monty Python movies, but, as good as they are, it took an 8-lb maul and a pile of rounds to really put me in touch with how my 14th-century ancestors lived.

Now that we've covered that end of things I'll continue with the lumberjack terms. If you've got a stack of logs that measures 8 ft. long, 4 ft. high, and 4 ft. deep, you've got a cord of wood. This equates to 128 cubic feet.

A "face cord" is a description that sort of straddles area and volume. It's a stack of wood 8 ft. long, 4 ft. high, and is one course of logs deep. On this note, from what I've seen, logs are typically cut in lengths running from about 14 inches to 20 inches. Just how big a log should be depends on just how big the inside of the stove is.

This cord thing is no trivial element in commerce. Some places have laws regarding the term's use in transactions.

Anyway, after I bought a maul, split the rounds, and bought a chainsaw, I did some Web-surfing about using chainsaws.

I started off on that path complacent and even a little bit bored. But I kept seeing more ways for things to go wrong than to go right. I called a friend and asked him what he thought. In response he sent me an E.R. doctor's account of how a patient sawed through his own femoral artery before even realizing that something was wrong.

A sensible and practical person would probably acknowledge that detail and keep reading the report. But me, well, I got stuck there.

After all, I don't even like cleaning fish. Severed femoral arteries, especially my own, are not my forte. I considered that I should stick to realms where I've got professional training, and none of this involves limbs of any form, type, or description.

Anyway, the day soon arrived when the woodsman showed up for the big chainsaw-and-bucking event. I asked him the value of the wood that would be produced by the process.

"Oh, about $500," he said.

"That's it? Five hundred dollars?"

"Yeah. You thinking of turning pro and selling wood?"

"No," I said, "I'm planning on going wuss and buying wood."

So I invited the woodsman into the breakfast nook for tea and scones. It's a good thing there were fresh doilies in the cupboard.

After the woodsman left I noticed he left his work gloves on the table. That was three weeks ago. He still hasn't returned my phone calls.

Anyway, I'm ready to close the books on August and open them for September. I've got three entries in the works:

1) Oolong tea and organic blueberry scones: $4.35.

2) Three cords of wood, including delivery costs: $449.97.

3) Avoiding any further contemplation of the term "femoral:" priceless.

Trouble ahead

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

The hopeless walk through the desert land of abject poverty puts sanity through a test, demanding use of tough mind in real tough times. You even look for roots of plants nearby. There's none! You inch your way a bit more, hanging to a thin thread of hope.

Through it all a certain phrase would echo in my mind. It's the patriotic song *America the Beautiful* I learned in grammar school. A stanza says "…for patriot dream that sees beyond the years." It consistently returns, especially during the formative years of my career as a fledging journalist. Learning to write is simple: write!

It is about vision or what lies ahead. It encourages planning for our future. I used it as my golden light of hope to overcome difficult hurdles. It shows me there's "something better than this"—a brighter tomorrow.

Indeed, we've heard of the apocalyptic devastation in Houston, Texas and nearby cities drenched into submission by Hurricane Harvey. Some 600,000 families lost family homes and more than 13,000 had to be rescued. Preliminarily, the damage is upwards of $100 billion. Comforting to see the grand sense of compassion and resiliency among countrymen, extending a hand to help families rebuild.

Having seen about three superstorms here in our lifetime, we know the sheer hardship we face the day after the storm when we collect leftover materials to begin the process of rebuilding our homes. We're ever thankful to the U.S. military for the quick assistance they bring in the morning after, from power generators to field kitchens. It's woefully hard if we had to do it on our own.

Planning: I'd use the line to mirror our future. But the lack of a plan leaves a void that seems to spell uncertainty ahead for these isles. Do we ignore it, singing "que sera" or rein it in to take charge of our future?

It reverts to trajectories in growth that swing wildly on its own accord. It's never based on a plan from within. It triggers quiet fear what happens if events nearby tear down the walls of economic security here.

The second and third economic powers are out on their own playground. One dances with geopolitical strength in the region, the other builds up more investments that would render ours obsolete. When they eventually descend on these pearly isles imagine trying to meet local needs with nothing in the coffers to pay for them.

The issue requires serious assessment and some real time planning by the elected elite here. What's coming down the pike is economic Armageddon. The heavy tidal wave of destruction has begun its forward motion on the way to our shores! If you haven't seen it, then it's time to shake off the usual grand *mañana* so you see what's coming down the pike.

Remember our experience of recent past when Nippon investments took an exodus? The destruction of the impending powerful tidal waves would be far worse than anything we've seen in the history of these islands. Appalling the sense of apathy to buckle down to plan and prepare to brace our economic future. I suppose we're still humming *You Are My Sunshine!*

Land lease: Recently, we heard a cast of miscreants peddling the false premise that land extension would lure more investments to the NMI. I probed the assertion for some sense of logic, you know, truth and validity. But there's nothing up that alley. It was simply hurled while simultaneously seeking cover before it boomerangs!

Those who have braved it leave the task of defining the relationship in La La Land. The more I probe the assertion the more it shows that it's all posturing, riddled with nervous ignorance hoping for miracles.

When Nippon investments took an exodus in recent past was it triggered by the 55-year lease term? Did they ever clamor for change in the current policy? Or was it an issue where we displayed our ignorance on geopolitical history? Didn't it drain some $7 million to $12 million from the local economy?

Furthermore, over the years the NMI secured a reputation of policy instability. We played seesaw with policy, like changing boat in midstream and pounding our chest in boastful affirmation. Subsequently, we had to cringe upon learning that it ruins investment from A-Z. Have we attained any appreciable level of political maturity?

Ooops! Moreover, when a political elite fast tracks projects bypassing regulatory agency requirements it's a tale of their diving into deep pockets braving sacrificing the quality of life of their people in the villages. Interesting that they then return and ask in dumbfounded fashion "what happens to water, power and sewer" for villagers? Garapan is a perfect example of how this issue was unleashed on villagers.

Lapdogs: Now, it is understood when lapdogs are hired to peddle the interest of certain business interests. This relationship happens between here and the D.C. Swamp. It is known as "empathy deficiency"—when you dump the interest of the people you represent in favor of your elitist friends. Eh, no worries! We know who you are like the back of our hand.

Promotion: It isn't surprising questions raised recently about the lack of participation of indigenous musicians and dancers in the tourism industry. The issue is a double edge sword that requires meaningful discussion. The blame game doesn't fit the equation.

Trust me, I've spent more than a quarter of a century as a musician playing in and out of hotels. Must learn to do things on a professional basis lest your service is cut after piling heaps of unreliability.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A memorial for Amelia

To Mr. John Del Rosario: What a great, unexpected surprise from you concerning Amelia Earhart. This year marks the 80th year of this important historical event for Saipan that happened in 1937. Amelia Earhart was a famous American woman pilot who attempted to circumnavigate the globe; however, her dream was never accomplished. She was brought to Saipan by the Japanese after her plane went down in the Pacific.

We, the local group (not a stateside group) wish to acknowledge the presence of Amelia Earhart on Saipan in 1937 and build a memorial for her, for the world to know that Saipan is where Amelia Earhart last lived. Peoples' curiosity have been enhanced lately, all asking about the location of Saipan.

Building a memorial here to Amelia Earhart would be a gesture of appreciation to America from the people of the Northern Marianas for her accomplishments, i.e. aviation, in addition to the millions of dollars the CNMI is receiving every year from United States. And most of all, for the thousands of American lives lost during the bloody Battle of Saipan to save the Chamorro and Carolinian lives in 1944.

Marie SC. Castro
via email (AEMMC)

Take care of your pets!

By ED TUDOR
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

All three of the veterinarians who have come to Saipan to live and run a full-service animal hospital have the same story to tell.

We all came to offer a service where there was none. This had to be one of the more noble things that anyone could do, considering that all of us came on our own dime. There was no contract, no guarantee of money, or financial stability. We all paid our own travel expenses, and the freight for our equipment. We came for the work and the opportunity to help the animals and the people of the CNMI. All of this at no cost to the government or people of the CNMI.

Since we were charging for our work, some people said we were all "just in it for the money." This attitude has persisted to this day in spite of evidence to the contrary.

As a result we were all demonized to the point that the first two veterinarians left and, although I have stayed, it is wearing very thin and I am too old to want to deal with this much longer. The truly amazing claim against me was that I have a monopoly and abuse my clients because of this. How silly, how unthinking.

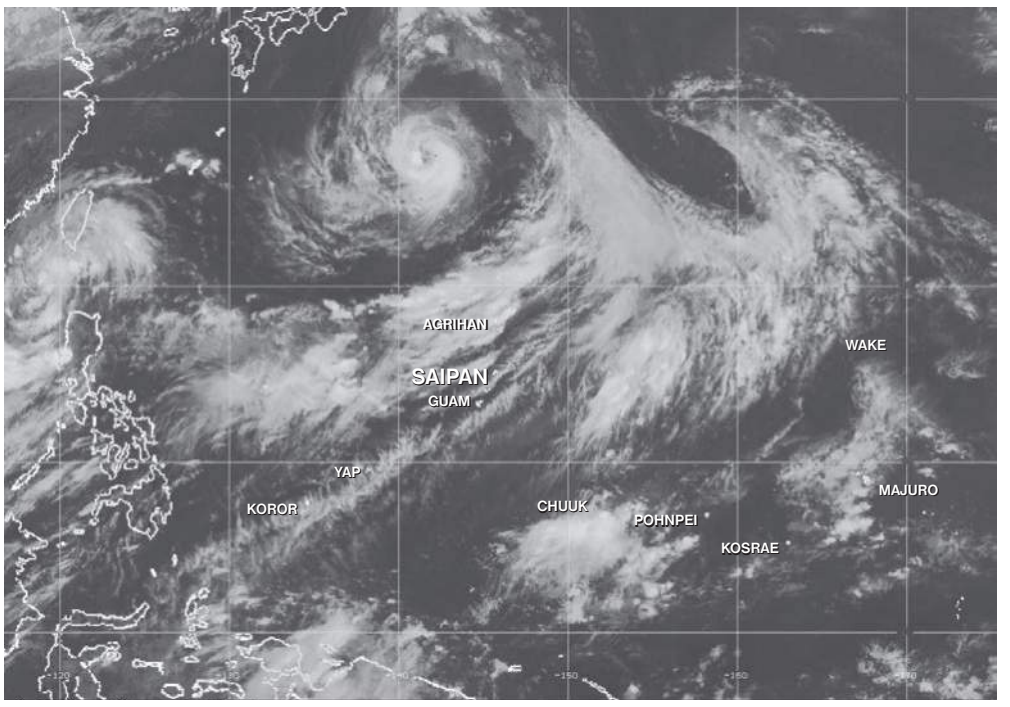
See PETS on Page 15

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:15 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The forecast is basically unchanged, with isolated showers the next few days and mostly cloudy skies becoming partly cloudy Friday. Southwest winds should switch back to east by Sunday as a weak ridge curently south of Guam moves slowly north of the islands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	57° / 48°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	79° / 64°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 74°
London	Showers	70° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	97° / 77°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	59° / 55°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
New York	Mostly Sunny	73° / 57°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	84° / 70°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	81° / 68°
Rome	Sunny	82° / 70°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	84° / 68°
San Francisco	Sunny	83° / 63°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	82° / 63°
Tokyo	Rain	77° / 64°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	73° / 59°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:43 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.57
10:16 AM	LOW TIDE	0.19
5:28 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.58
10:45 PM	LOW TIDE	1.12

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:29 AM	2:40 PM
Saturday	-	2:18 AM	3:27 PM
Sunday	-	3:08 AM	4:15 PM
Monday	-	3:59 AM	5:00 PM
Tuesday	-	4:51 AM	5:45 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

LITERARY NOOK

Picnic poems and kalsarikannit

When Ripe Watermelon

when ripe watermelon bursts its rind
and juicy red flesh can be seen
all the fruits of summer come to mind
and watermelon is the queen
the crowning glory of every picnic
just what every BBQ needs
thump for ripeness to get the right pick
have fun spitting out all the seeds

Snowcones!

I would build that cone in air
that slushy cone those mounds of ice
and all who slurped would taste it there
and all would shout, Snowcone! Shave ice!
its melting juicy colors rare
piled in shaved mounds so nice
so close your eyes and taste with joy
summer delights for girl and boy
dessert in sweet Polar Paradise

The Hot Pepper Sauce

(after W.C. Williams poem "The Red Wheelbarrow")

so many depend upon
a hot pepper sauce
splashed without restraint
on some fried chicken

Finadene' Giya Fiesta (pepper sauce for the Fiesta)
gayera agupa pupuenge (cockfight tomorrow night)
guaha bula finadene' falak (lots of hot pepper sauce to go)
para talonan yan tinola (for the dead cock and chicken soup)
Biba San Jose' yan Biba San Isidro (Fiestas held on Tinian)

This poem is translated from Chamorro. Tinian has great wild boonie peppers and a fiesta and cockfight to go along with it.

Kalsarikannit—a Sonnet On It

(A word from Finland, it means the feeling you get when you are going to get drunk home alone in your underwear)

so your big picnic was cancelled due to heavy duty rain
two months ago you and old friends began to plan it
more rain forecast there's an alternative let me explain
use an old remedy from Finland called kalsarikannit
it's a bit anti-social but no driving and safe no doubt
you have stocked up on beer and snacks are ready to go
so get drunk at home in your undies and don't go out
everyone else is at the movies watching a new monster show
read some online memes, a book, or magazine, it can't fail
do it for the cancelled picnic or party Saturday or Sunday
call the mainland and talk to family or an old island pal
try to carry kalsarikannit over to night football Monday
growing tired of the corrupt political climate on our planet
stay home safe on your couch and practice kalsarikannit

PETS

From Page 13

I have come up with a few suggestions to solve this problem of having to pay for services delivered.

1. The government of the CNMI could hire me as a practicing veterinarian. They could put me on salary and pay for the running and upkeep of the hospital. They do this for the physicians.

2. The "rich" people of the island could contribute a portion of their income, say 80 to 90 percent for the running of the hospital, and 10 to 20 percent for my salary (what I pay and what I get), and whatever else is needed for incidentals.

3. The government of the CNMI could give me tax exempt status (including customs tax), give me space in one of the buildings they rent/own, and give me government employees as my staff (just like the Department of Lands and Natural Resources clinic), pay me a salary, and pay for my supplies and equipment.

4. One of the many "grant writers" on the island could apply for and get me a grant to practice veterinary medicine in an "underserved" area, and collect donations to run and equip the hospital.

5. Barring this financial support I could close the animal hospital and wait for another two to three veterinarians to come to Saipan, thus eliminating any accusations of a "monopoly."

6. Or…this is a long shot…people could simply quit complaining that everything is "expensive" in 2017, and simply take care of your pets in a manner that is consistent with the stories you tell about how much you love animals in general and your pet specifically (known as walk the talk), and pay me for the service I provide and I will deal with the rent, equipment, supplies, employees, personal salary, and expertise necessary for the service…oh yeah, quit vilifying and demonizing me for doing my job. I am not in the money-saving business. I am in the lifesaving business and that can't be done on some imaginary, Walt Disney World budget, especially if people here (mainlanders especially) refuse to mitigate the really expensive stuff by not practicing preventative medicine with their pets. Hope is not a strategy, guys!

Ed Tudor, DVM is a practicing veterinarian and runs the animal hospital on Saipan

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-027

ROOF REPLACEMENT AT DRUM STORAGE AREA POWER PLANT NO. 1 SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of roofing material at the Drum Storage Berm, Power Plant 1, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the removal of corroded roofing and its replacement with new material. Electrical work for installation of lighting and power outlets at the berm is also requested for this task.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **90 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-027 Roof Replacement Drum Storage Area Power Plant No. 1 Saipan",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 29, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to conduct business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 14, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and Max Simian, CUC Technical Manager for Oil – via email max.simian@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES

By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the Fuel Adjustment Charge, previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC, depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the"Mean of Platts Singapore"monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the Fuel Adjustment Charge. Due to an increase in the average fuel prices, CUC will adjust the fuel-charge by 8.98%. Accordingly, the Fuel Adjustment Charge has increased from $0.14605 per kWh to $0.15917 per kWh effective September 1, 2017.

BASE RATES

		RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
1	Monthly Customer Charge	$ 7.00	$ 10.00	$ 10.00	$ 9.06
2	Base Rates Per kWh:				
	KWH LEVELS				
	1) 1 to 350	$ 0.0210	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	2) 351 to 1,200	$ 0.0970	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	3) 1,201 and over	$ 0.1580	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070

*Municipal Pumping

FUEL ADJUSTMENT CHARGE or FAC (Previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC)

	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
Current FAC (Effective 09/01/17)	$ 0.15917	$ 0.15917	$ 0.15917	$ 0.15917
Previous FAC (07/01/17 - 08/31/17)	$ 0.14605	$ 0.14605	$ 0.14605	$ 0.14605

*Municipal Pumping

PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF

Availability: Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.
Energy Charge: The Energy Charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable Electric Base Rate and the Fuel Adjustment Charge.
Fixture Charge: See below.

	FIXTURE TYPE	WATTS	KWH/MONTH	FIXTURE CHARGE PER MONTH
1	Long Arm	250	101	$ 11.67
2	Short Arm	175	71	$ 8.33
3	LED	140	57	$ 10.83

ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES

1	Late Charge (monthly)	1% of Past Due
2	NSF Check / Returned Check Charge	$ 40.00
3	Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments) - Temporarily Suspended	$ 1.50
4	Unauthorized Connection	$ 550.00
5	Reconnection at the Pole	$ 200.00
6	Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)	$ 210.00
7	Disconnection Notice - Temporarily Suspended	$ 15.00
8	Meter Change Out	$ 95.00
9	New Service - Single Phase	$ 135.00
10	Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)	$ 90.00
11	Meter Test - Single Phase	$ 75.00
12	Meter Test - Three Phase	$ 110.00
13	Disconnection at the Meter	$ 45.00
14	Reconnection at the Meter	$ 60.00

Updated August 31 2017

MCS student leaders map out year's activities in retreat

While their peers slept in on Saturday, Aug. 26, Mount Carmel School's student leaders got up bright and early to participate in the school's Student Leadership Retreat in the school's Maturana building.

Held every year, the retreat helps students grow as leaders and gives them the opportunity to work together to plan all school activities for the school year.

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero kicked off the retreat with a talk about leadership and challenged student leaders to rethink their understanding of the concept. "Leadership is nothing if people don't follow you, so the key is to learn how to motivate your team," Deleon Guerrero said. "In this sense, the definition of leadership is motivating others to accomplish something together."

Talking about the importance of motivation, Deleon Guerrero told students, "Despite what you may have learned, people are not that motivated by promises of rewards or threats of penalties."

"The research tells us that people will rally behind you if they believe in you, if they believe in your vision, and if you believe in their ability to fulfill that vision."

Mount Carmel School's 2017-2018 Student Council officers gather for a photo before kicking off the school's annual Student Leadership Retreat. From left, secretary Monica Usi, treasurer Theresa Zheng, president Erika Mendiola, vice president Michelle Palacios, and moderator Seok Jun Yun. MCS

Mount Carmel School senior class officers work to build their pyramid at the school's annual Student Leadership Retreat. From left, vice president Cassidy Torres, treasurer Miki Takayama, and president Jonelle Toskas. MCS

Mount Carmel School 8th grade class officers are all smiles as they participate in the school's annual Student Leadership Retreat. Counterclockwise from lower left, Isabella Guerrero, Larry Cruz, Jedric Villar, Amaya Reyes, Theresa Schweiger, Jeremiah Diaz, Luke Mersai, and Fiona Bucalig. MCS

Mount Carmel School class and club advisers gather for a group photo before the start of the school's annual Student Leadership Retreat. From left, Johnathan Hernandez, Bobby Baldazo, Rosiky Camacho, Eva Villar, Sister Kathy Bromwell, and Francis San Nicolas. MCS

Taking this all together, he ended with one last piece of advice: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

After Deleon Guerrero's leadership talk, the Student Council took over with a team-building activity in which students had to build a pyramid of paper cups using only yarn to carry the cups. According to council president Erika Mendiola, the activity helped students learn to work together under difficult circumstances.

After a few more group-building activities, student leaders and their teacher advisers got down to work, planning out the entire school year. Going through week by week, Student Council officers worked with clubs, classes, and organizations to schedule activities for the year. Whenever conflicts emerged, students were ushered aside to work out alternatives and solutions. By the end of the retreat, student leaders had successfully planned out the entire year.

Student Council treasurer Theresa Zheng was very happy with the results of the retreat. "It was great because we learned that it's not just one person that leads the team; everyone has to work together." ***(MCS)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021 Email: nmhc@nmhcgov.net

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Victor B. Hocog
Lt. Governor

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (Credits) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The Credits are available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office and website. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate Credits. NMHC may allocate **$650,067.00** in Credits for the 2017 program year.

Application for Credits

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the Credits should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or through our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the **$2,500.00 Application Fee** at NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, October 13, 2017**. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **October 30, 2017**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **4:30 pm November 13, 2017**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **November/December 2017** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving Credits thirty (30) days following the November/December 2017 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-COTA/FTA-208

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF PHONE RECORDING SOFTWARE FOR UP TO SIX (6) LANDLINE PHONE UNITS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **AUGUST 25, 2017** AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR SUITE 216 MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, NARU LOOP, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB17-TDLNR-207 – CIF TINIAN

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) UNITS ZERO-TURN RIDING MOWERS FOR TINIAN DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN**, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

/S/ GUILLERMO C. BORJA
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD, TDLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re: Estate of HARTLEY SHELDON KROUL, Deceased.	Civil Case No. 17-0205 CV NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PETITION FOR LETTERS TESTAMENTARY

To: Any person or creditor who claims an interest in the Estate of Hartley S. Kroul.

You are hereby notified that Sonia P. Kroul, Commonwealth of the Northern Islands, has filed a petition in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in which she seeks to be appointed Executor of the Estate of Hartley Sheldon Kroul. Mrs. Kroul's attorney is Marianas Pacific Law LLC, P.O. Box 506057, Saipan, MP 96950, Telephone NO. 233-0777, email dan.guidotti@mpac.law.
The hearing for Mrs. Kroul's petition is set for October 26, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., Room 220 at the Commonwealth Superior Court located on Beach Road at Susupe, Saipan. All parties claiming an interest in the Decedent's estate should appear at the hearing.

Any person with any claim against the estate or against the Decedent should file their claim with the Clerk of Court for the Commonwealth Superior Court no later than 60 days after the first date on which this notice was first published. All creditor's claims not presented during this time will be forever barred.

Dated: August 30, 2017

/s/ By: Clerk of Court

The Shack signs on as emerald sponsor of MINA 'Green Gala'

Glen Hunter, right, and Henry Worswick, third from right, co-owners of The Shack in Oleai, pose with members of their restaurant crew and Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance management and Tasi Watch rangers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The restaurant The Shack in Oleai has signed on as an emerald sponsor of the Green Gala, the signature fundraising event of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

According to The Shack co-owner Glen Hunter, The Shack is committed to keep supporting the conservation work of MINA: "We are so grateful for all that MINA does to protect our fragile environment, and we are proud to once again be able to support one of their main fundraising events."

"As a small local business, we do our very best to actively protect our natural resources by utilizing reusable dishware, offering eco-friendly takeout containers, focusing on locally-sourced produce, composting organic waste, supporting cleanup efforts, and donating to groups like MINA," he added.

Roberta Guerrero, executive director of MINA, echoed the commitment of The Shack and thanked them for all that they do for the environment.

"Their emerald sponsorship commitment also came to us in the form of a really fun and creative re-purposed piece of cardboard, and their efforts to support MINA's work in building on the culture of recycling in the CNMI means a lot. We at MINA are so appreciative of all that [Hunter] and his team do to keep the Marianas clean and litter-free," Guerrero said.

The Green Gala will be held on Friday, Sept. 15, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. In addition to lively entertainment, dinner, and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promise a memorable evening to celebrate over 12 years of working with island communities for conservation.

For more information on MINA's projects and the Green Gala or to purchase tickets, contact 233-REEF (7333), or send an email to minaoutreach@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Motors has offered a 2017 Mazda CX-3 GT as a hole-in-one prize for the Governor's Tourism Cup golf tournament this Saturday, Sept. 2, 2017, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east course. The Marianas Tourism Education Council and My Wave Clubs thanked Triple J Motors chief Randy Steele and his entire team for their continued support of MTEC and My WAVE.

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATOR
Chalan Piao, P.O. Box 501000 CK., Saipan MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs (DCCA) is soliciting request for proposals for FY 2018 Consolidated Block Grant (CBG) under the spending authority of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). Funds will be sub-granted to an agency/non-profit organization in the CNMI upon meeting the specific qualifications/provisions of the said funding through the 2018 CBG State Plan.

The purpose of the CBG funding is to make funding available to agency/non- profit organization for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low- income communities and the empowerment of low- income families to become fully self- sufficient. The special intent of this funding will be to fund projects that will provide services to the community who are considered economically disadvantaged.

All proposals must be submitted to the Division of Youth Services, Community Services Office no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, October 09, 2017***. A copy of the grant general requirements/conditions, sub- grantee responsibilities and other scope relating to the funding can be obtained at the DYS- Community Services Office in Chalan Piao, next to Bank of Guam (Joeten Building). You may also log into the DYS website at www.dys.gov.mp for the grant application form. A copy of the FY 2018 Consolidated Block Grant State Plan can be viewed at www.dcca.gov.mp or www.gov.mp.

For additional questions or inquiries, please contact the following:

Vivian T. Sablan
DYS Administrator
(670) 664-2550
vsablan@dys.gov.mp

Rita M. Castro
DYS Grant Writer
(670) 664-2557
rcastro@dys.gov.mp

Jennifer O. Tanaka
Federal Program Coordinator IV
(670) 664- 2554
jtanaka@dys.gov.mp

Nina S. Nekaifes
Federal Program Coordinator III
(670) 664-2554
nnekaifes@dys.gov.mp

This ad was paid for by the Consolidated Block Grant under The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/DPL-17-RFP-027

ARCHITECTURAL-ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED HOMESTEAD SUBDIVISIONS, I DENNI, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Department of Public Lands (DPL) are soliciting sealed Proposals for Architectural & Engineering Services for the Proposed Homestead Subdivisions, I Denni, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with §70-30.3-305 of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after August 25, 2017 at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Lands Conference Room, 2nd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building on September 12, 2017. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ms. Patricia Rasa, Director of Planning Division at Division of Public Lands, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time September 26, 2017.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with §70-30.3-305 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. ***Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%***
2. ***Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%***
3. ***Project Approach – 35%***
4. ***Schedule of Completion – 15%***

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, §70-30.3-245.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW/DPL-17-RFP-027". For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, September 29, 2017. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, September 29, 2017, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 29, 2017 – AND must be received no later than October 10, 2017. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals is solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and reasonable price.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

James A. Ada
Secretary of Public Works

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Business

AP EXCLUSIVE:

Flood insurance policies plunged before Harvey

WASHINGTON (AP)—Houston's population is growing quickly, but when Harvey hit last weekend there were far fewer homes and other properties in the area with flood insurance than just five years ago, according to an Associated Press investigation.

The sharp, 9 percent drop in coverage means many residents fleeing Harvey's floodwaters have no financial backup to fix up their homes and will have to draw on savings or go into debt—or perhaps be forced to sell.

A former head of the federal flood insurance program called the drops "unbelievable" and criticized the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which oversees the program.

"When you start to see policies drop like this, FEMA should have done something about this," said Robert Hunter, who ran the program in the late '70s. He estimates that fewer than two of 10 homeowners with flood damage have flood insurance.

Houston's Harris County has 25,000 fewer flood-insured properties than it did in 2012, according to the AP's review of FEMA data.

In percentage terms, the drop was even more dramatic in certain sections of the county: In Pasadena, just southeast of Houston, policies were down nearly 20 percent. Baytown, east of Houston, saw a 22 percent drop. The trouble extended beyond Houston, too. Jefferson County, home to cities like Beaumont and Port Arthur, which Harvey hit Wednesday, saw a bigger drop. That county fell from 25,818 policies to 19,773 in the past five years, a 23 percent decrease.

The current head of the flood insurance program, Roy Wright, attributed much of the drop in the Houston area to Congress' decision in 2012 to raise premiums, and said there is a "true insurance gap" across the country: Only half the 10 million properties in the U.S. that he said need flood coverage have bought it.

He said he is working to close to gap but noted that the decision to keep or drop coverage largely lies with individuals.

"I can educate and make the product available, but ultimately this is a pocketbook decision made by each individual homeowner, and I imagine they have a lot of factors they take into effect," said Wright, director of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Experts say another reason for lack of coverage in the Houston area was that the last big storm, Tropical Storm Allison, was 16 years ago. As a result, people had stopped worrying and decided to use money they would have spent for insurance premiums on other items.

"Allison was a once-in-500-year flood," said Texas A&M University economist James P. Gaines. "We weren't supposed to have another one."

FEMA's director, Brock Long, told the AP on Wednesday that storm victims who have lost their homes and are uninsured could seek assistance through the Small Business Administration, which offers loans.

The average per year cost for premiums in Harris County rose from $514 in 2012 to $555 this year, an increase of 8 percent, according to FEMA data. Congress repealed its 2012 premium hikes in 2014.

Jesse Trubia, president of a metal fabrication company, decided to pass on flood insurance when he moved to his two-story home on the outskirts of Houston several years ago. That decision will now cost him up to $30,000, he estimated.

Up to one foot of water seeped into his home in Cypress, he judges from a neighbor's report, ruining furniture, plasterboard, paint, carpets and wooden flooring.

He said a real estate agent and title insurance company had given him the impression he did not need flood insurance, because his home wasn't in a flood plain.

"Of course, you have that gut-wrenching feeling now, but at the time I'm talking to people who live in the neighborhood 10 or 15 years, and they say they've never seen water in the street," he said by phone from a Dallas hotel, where he had fled with his wife and two children.

AP

In this Aug. 29, 2017 aerial file photo, a neighborhood near Addicks Reservoir are flooded by rain from Harvey, in Houston.

Harvey knocks out more refineries, shifting global oil flows

DALLAS (AP)—Hurricane Harvey is sending pump prices higher for U.S. motorists and causing temporary shifts in the flow of oil and gasoline around the world after taking down a huge chunk of U.S. refining capacity.

It will be days or even weeks before the energy sector in the southeast Texas Gulf Coast is back to normal operations as it deals with flooding in the aftermath of Harvey, which has been downgraded to a tropical storm. The region from Corpus Christi, Texas, where Harvey made landfall, to the Louisiana state line accounts for about 3 percent of the U.S. economy and is a crucial export market for oil and chemicals.

Wednesday brought news that the nation's biggest refinery, which was already running below half-speed, had begun a complete shutdown. The Motiva Enterprises plant in Port Arthur, Texas, run by a unit of the state-owned oil company of Saudi Arabia, was the latest domino to fall among Gulf Coast refineries.

More than one-fifth of U.S. refining capacity has been shuttered, according to S&P Global Platts.

With that, gasoline futures headed higher for a third straight day. They had climbed 10 cents to $1.88 a gallon Wednesday

Retail gas prices climbed, too, up 2 cents a gallon on Wednesday and 7 cents in the past week, to a national average price of $2.42 per gallon, according to Gasbuddy.

"In terms of product price increases, it might get worse before it gets better," said Rob Smith, an energy analyst with IHS Markit.

It could take two weeks or longer before big refineries in the Houston area can recover from a record-setting deluge and resume normal operations. That assumes they didn't suffer serious damage, which is still unknown.

Harvey isn't the first big storm to hit the refinery-rich Gulf Coast, but the oil industry has undergone big changes since the last major interruption from Hurricane Ike in 2008.

The so-called shale revolution has led to a surge in oil production in the U.S., increasing the nation's exports of crude oil and gasoline to Mexico and other places in Latin America, and diesel to Europe.

When the U.S. can't produce enough gasoline or diesel to meet export demands, other regions are forced to look for replacement supplies "and the backfill has to come from further away," said Richard Joswick, an analyst with S&P Global Platts. "It has to come from Asia even."

The result will be higher prices, but it should be just a one- or two-week problem, Joswick said.

Trump pushes tax overhaul to 'bring back Main Street'

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP)—President Donald Trump launched his fall push to overhaul the nation's tax system by pledging Wednesday that the details-to-come plan would "bring back Main Street" by reducing the crushing tax burden on middle-class Americans, making a populist appeal for a proposal expected to heavily benefit corporate America.

Trump said his vision for re-writing the tax system, a key campaign pledge, would unlock stronger economic growth and benefit companies and workers alike. He promised it would be "pro-growth, pro-jobs, pro-worker and pro-American."

True to form for the president, Trump dangled the prospect of the "biggest ever" tax cut and warned that without it, "jobs in our country cannot take off the way they should. And it could be much worse than that."

Trump, who rarely travels to promote his policy agenda, chose to debut his tax overhaul pitch before employees at a manufacturing plant in Springfield, Missouri, a community known as the birthplace of Route 66, one of the nation's original highways, and one known as America's Main Street.

"This is where America's Main Street will begin its big, beautiful comeback," the president declared.

After eight months without any major legislative victories and after a significant defeat on health care, Trump and Republican congressional leaders face mounting pressure to notch some significant achievements before next year's midterm elections. But the tax overhaul effort already is facing political headwinds.

The White House and Republican lawmakers have not finalized details of the plan, and the push comes as Congress returns to face an intense September workload filled with must-do items such as raising the debt limit, funding the government and providing assistance for the Harvey recovery effort.

While the White House has been designing a tax plan aimed at appealing to Republicans, Trump sought to cast the effort in bipartisan terms. He called on members of both parties to work with him on a "once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliver real tax reform for everyday hard-working Americans."

"I am fully committed to working with Congress to get this job done—and I don't want to be disappointed by Congress, do you understand?" Trump said. "Do you understand? Congress. I think Congress is going to make a comeback."

The president used the official White House event to inject an overtly political message aimed at Missouri Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill, a top Republican target in next year's midterm elections.

"We must lower our taxes, and your senator, Claire McCaskill, she must do this for you. And if she doesn't do it for you, you have got to vote her out of office," Trump said, drawing out each of the last five words for emphasis.

Even before Trump took the stage, Democrats eagerly laid down their own markers for what the tax plan should look like.

Nation

Houston sees glimmer of hope after Harvey but threats loom

HOUSTON (AP)—Harvey's floodwaters started dropping across much of the Houston area and the storm weakened slightly Wednesday but major dangers remained for the U.S. Gulf Coast area, including the threat of an explosion at a stricken Texas chemical plant and major flooding further east near the Texas-Louisiana line.

The scope of the devastation caused by the hurricane came into sharper focus, meanwhile, and the murky green floodwaters from the record-breaking, 4-foot deluge of rain began yielding up more bodies as predicted.

The confirmed death toll climbed to at least 31, including six family members—four of them children—whose bodies were pulled Wednesday from a van that had been swept off a Houston bridge into a bayou.

"Unfortunately, it seems that our worst thoughts are being realized," Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said after the van that disappeared over the weekend was found in 10 feet of muddy water.

As the water receded, Houston's fire department said it would begin a block-by-block search Thursday of thousands of flooded homes. Assistant Fire Chief Richard Mann said the searches were to ensure "no people were left behind."

While conditions in the nation's fourth-largest city appeared to improve, another crisis related to Harvey emerged at a chemical plant about 25 miles (40 kilometers) northeast of Houston. A spokeswoman for the Arkema Inc. plant in Crosby, Texas, said late Wednesday that the flooded facility had lost power and backup generators, leaving it without refrigeration for chemicals that become volatile as the temperature rises.

"The fire will happen. It will resemble a gasoline fire. It will be explosive and intense in nature," said Janet Smith, spokeswoman for the French company.

The last of the plant's employees evacuated on Tuesday and residents within 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) were told to leave, Hill said.

Arkema submitted a plan to the federal government in 2014 outlining a worst-case scenario that said potentially 1.1 million residents could be affected by such an event over a distance of 23 miles, according to information compiled by a nonprofit group. But the company said Wednesday that a worst-case scenario was "very unlikely."

Another threat was emerging east of Houston where weather conditions deteriorated close to the Louisiana line.

Beaumont and Port Arthur, Texas, struggled with rising floodwaters and worked to evacuate residents after Harvey completed a U-turn in the Gulf of Mexico and rolled ashore early Wednesday for the second time in six days. It hit southwestern Louisiana as a tropical storm with heavy rain and winds of 45 mph.

Forecasters downgraded Harvey to a tropical depression late Wednesday from a tropical storm but it still has lots of rain and potential damage to spread, with 4 to 8 inches forecast from the Louisiana-Texas line into Tennessee and Kentucky through Friday. Some spots may get as much as a foot, raising the risk of more flooding.

For much of the Houston area, forecasters said the rain is pretty much over.

"We have good news," said Jeff Lindner, a meteorologist with the Harris County Flood Control District. "The water levels are going down."

Houston's two major airports were up and running again Wednesday. Officials said they were resuming limited bus and light rail service as well as trash pickup.

AP

Evacuees from Tropical Storm Harvey fill the Max Bowl, as others continue to pour in for shelter at the business in Port Arthur, Texas, Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017.

Texas chemical plant poised to explode amid Harvey flood

DALLAS (AP)—A flooded chemical plant in a small town outside of Houston was poised to explode, a spokeswoman for the French company said late Wednesday, though the timing and the extent of the danger weren't immediately clear.

The Arkema Inc. plant in Crosby, Texas, about 25 miles (40.23 kilometers) northeast of Houston, lost power and its backup generators amid Harvey's days-long deluge, leaving it without refrigeration for chemicals that become volatile as the temperature rises.

"The fire will happen. It will resemble a gasoline fire. It will be explosive and intense in nature," spokeswoman Janet Smith told The Associated Press.

There was "no way to prevent" the explosion , chief executive Rich Rowe said earlier Wednesday.

Arkema manufactures organic peroxides, a family of compounds used for making everything from pharmaceuticals to construction materials.

"As the temperature rises, the natural state of these materials will decompose. A white smoke will result, and that will catch fire," Smith said. "So the fire is imminent. The question is when."

The company shut down the Crosby site before Harvey made landfall last week, but a crew of 11 had stayed behind. That group was removed and residents within 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) were told to evacuate Tuesday after the plant lost power.

Harris County Fire Marshal spokeswoman Rachel Moreno said the 1.5-mile radius was developed in consultation with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and other subject-matter experts. "It's a concerning situation, yes," Moreno said. "But the facility is surrounded by water right now so we don't anticipate the fire going anywhere."

The plant falls along a stretch near Houston that features one of the largest concentrations of refineries, pipelines and chemical plants in the country.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Saipan, MP – In observance of CNMI Labor Day Festivities slated for September 01, 2017 and Labor Day Holiday September 04, 2017, the Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill facilities will be closed all day on Friday, September 01, 2017 and Monday September 04, 2017. Services will resume on Saturday, September 02, 2017 and on Tuesday, September 05, 2017.

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/s/ Blas Mafnas
Acting Director, Solid Waste Mgmt. Division
Department of Public Works
Lower Base Transfer Station, Pagu Avenue
Saipan, MP 96950

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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INVITATION TO BID
NMHC IFB 2017-003
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017
TIME: 10:00 AM

"INSTALLATION OF NEW SERVER FOR NMHC"

Bid packets will be available on Friday, August 25, 2017, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Procurement Officer, or Mr. Jacob J. Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Ignacio L. Perez
Board Chairman
& Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan,
Director, Division of Procurement
& Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NMHC RFP 2017-004
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2017
TIME: 10:00 AM

"ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES"

Proposal packets will be available on Friday, August 25, 2017, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (local time), September 6, 2017 at the NMHC Central Office Conference in Garapan. No proposal will be accepted from any firm or company, which fails to attend this mandatory pre-proposal conference.

For more information, contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Procurement Officer, or Mr. Jacob J. Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Ignacio L. Perez
Board Chairman
& Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement
& Supply

Asia

Will North Korea make missiles over Japan the new normal?

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The language from North Korea on Wednesday is as familiar as it is chilling, a declaration to the world to expect more missile tests. But there are important clues about North Korea's ambitious push to send its missiles farther into the Pacific Ocean in an attempt to make them an accepted part of life in the region, as leader Kim Jong Un expands the weapons program he sees as his country's best chance of survival against encircling enemies.

By firing a missile over Japan and putting the Asia-Pacific, including Guam and its major U.S. military base, on notice for more tests, North Korea may have won itself greater military space in a region dominated by enemies. It's still too early to see if Kim can create new rules without crossing a line that the United States won't tolerate.

Here's a look at the possible meaning of Kim's comments carried by state media after North Korea sent a missile potentially capable of carrying a nuclear bomb over Japan on Tuesday:

WHAT NORTH KOREA SAID

Because North Korea's "current ballistic rocket launching drill ... is the first step of the military operation ... in the Pacific and a meaningful prelude to containing Guam, (which is an) advanced base of invasion, he (Kim) said that it is necessary to positively push forward the work for putting the strategic force on a modern basis by conducting more ballistic rocket launching drills with the Pacific as a target in the future."

WHAT IT MAY MEAN

This refers to North Korea's attempt to strengthen its weapons capabilities and use them to test its bargaining power against the United States. To this end, North Korea is signaling that it may soon turn the Pacific Ocean into its own ballistic missile training ground and make its launches over Japan an accepted norm.

AP

In this image made from video of a news bulletin aired by North Korean government broadcaster KRT on Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017, leader Kim Jong Un looks up at the sky at what is said to have been a missile launch on Aug. 29, 2017, at an undisclosed location in North Korea.

This might have been Kim's plan all along as he sought what to do next after North Korea's weapons development reached a point where it could test intercontinental ballistic missiles meant to reach deep into the U.S. mainland. North Korea threatened earlier this month to fire a salvo of Hwasong-12s—the same missile it sent over Japan on Tuesday—to create "enveloping fire" near Guam.

The U.S. territory of Guam is home to key military bases and strategic long-range bombers that North Korea finds threatening. Still, it's unclear whether the North will ever act on its threat to fire missiles at the "advanced base of invasion." This could risk triggering a military retaliation from the United States if something goes wrong. But the threat and the subsequent launch Tuesday may have won North Korea space to stage more weapons tests because anything less than targeting Guam would draw a sigh of relief from the United States.

"There were times when even a short-range ballistic missile launch drew a heated response and sanctions from the international community, but the world didn't do anything about North Korea's short-range ballistic missile launches on Saturday" ahead of Tuesday's longer launch, said Du Hyeogn Cha, a visiting scholar at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies. "North Korea will try to do the same with midrange ballistic missile launches in the Pacific, making them part of the new normal."

WHAT NORTH KOREA SAID

Kim Jong Un "sternly" said that "the drill conducted by the (North's) Strategic Force is a curtain-raiser of its resolute countermeasures" against joint military exercises being conducted by the U.S. and South Korea.

WHAT IT MAY MEAN

Before Tuesday's launch, it appeared North Korea was backing away from its threat to fire missiles toward Guam. Some took this as a sign that it was willing to talk and wouldn't let things get too tense during the annual joint military drills between Washington and Seoul that run through Thursday.

Tuesday's events killed such optimism. Most experts now say North Korea will likely continue its torrid pace of weapons tests until it perfects ICBMs and submarine-launched ballistic missile systems, and that it probably won't show serious interest in talks before then.

Kim is clearly seeking a real nuclear deterrent against the United States and likely believes that will strengthen his negotiating position when North Korea returns to talks. And if it does, North Korea will likely demand a halt of the U.S.-South Korean drills and perhaps the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula in any talks involving a moratorium on its missile launches, said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert from Seoul's Dongguk University.

North Korea condemns the annual U.S.-South Korea war games as rehearsals for an invasion, and Washington and Seoul faced calls to postpone or downsize this year's drills to ease tensions.

There might also be a simpler reason Kim attributed Tuesday's launch to the drills.

China, North Korea's only major ally, has been calling for a "dual suspension" in which the North stops its nuclear and missile tests and Washington and Seoul halt their military exercises to lower tensions and lead to talks. By publicly linking the launch to the drills, Kim is attempting reduce the possibility that Beijing supports more punitive measures against North Korea at the United Nations over the launch, Cha said.

WHAT NORTH KOREA SAID

Kim Jong Un said his nation has drawn a lesson "again that it should show action, not talk, to the U.S. imprudently denying the (North's) initiative measure for easing the extreme tension" and stressed that it will continue to watch America's demeanor toward the North and decide its future actions accordingly.

WHAT IT MAY MEAN

The problem here is that Washington won't be very interested in displaying the kind of "demeanor" that North Korea is likely to want.

A U.S. military solution to North Korea's missile tests is also unlikely. Making a highly difficult intercept of North Korean missiles would be a tough call because failure would seriously dent the credibility of the expensive U.S. missile defense system.

So the question is whether North Korea will put some checks on itself as it seeks to expand its weapons tests in the Pacific. Some experts believe the next North Korean launches will be bolder unless Washington makes serious concessions.

But Hwang Ildo, a professor at Seoul's Korea National Diplomatic Academy, disagrees, saying North Korea probably won't risk infuriating the United States. He says the North Korean threat toward Guam is more about winning greater freedom of military action than about deterring flyovers of U.S. bombers or stopping the U.S.-South Korean war games.

"The North's intention was to push the boundaries of its military presence farther from the Korean Peninsula and Japan and into the wider Pacific, and they practically drew the line at Guam with their missile threat," he said.

Embassy says Duterte wrong to say French law presumes guilt

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The French Embassy said Wednesday that Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte was wrong when he said laws in France presume a person guilty until proven innocent.

"We have to point out that, as in the Philippines, the presumption of innocence until proven guilty is at the core of the French judicial system," an embassy statement said.

"France strongly believes in the importance of the rule of law, due process and respect for human rights in all countries, including the Philippines," it added.

On Monday, Duterte ranted against U.N. rights expert Agnes Callamard, whose tweets last week urged the Philippines to make the death of a 17-year-old Kian Loyd delos Santos the last in the cruel war on drugs.

In his invective-laden reply to a reporter's question, Duterte said Callamard should not to lecture him and that in her own country, France, they can detain a person almost indefinitely "and the French law says you are guilty, and you have to prove your innocence."

Callamard, a vocal critic of the widespread drug killings, in tweets said delos Santos was the "latest symbol of a massive, government-led, human rights crisis," citing an autopsy report showing he was shot at least twice in the head, apparently at close range.

Murder complaints were filed Friday against Philippine police officers in connection with the Aug. 16 shooting death of the teenager in a Manila suburb.

The student, who wanted to become a police officer, was one of more than 80 drug and crime suspects killed in purported gunbattles with police over three days this month in the bloodiest period of Duterte's anti-drug campaign.

The killings have sparked alarm and investigations by the Senate and others.

Anger and protests have focused on the killing of delos Santos, who police say was a drug dealer who opened fire with a pistol during a raid. His family, however, says he was mercilessly killed by police as he was pleading for his life and telling the officers he had an exam in school the next day.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan troops seek record funds on missile defense against NK

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Defense Ministry is asking for a record-high budget for fiscal 2018 to bolster missile defense against North Korea's escalating threats. The 5.26 trillion yen ($48 billion) request, announced Thursday, involves a 2.5 percent increase. The big chunk of it will cover purchases of missile interceptors with expanded range, altitude and accuracy, such as the ship-to-air SM-3 Block IIA and the surface-to-air PAC-3 MSE. Fears about North Korea's missile and nuclear threats have intensified this week after Pyongyang's latest test launch crossed northern Japan. The ministry also seeks to add the land-based Aegis Ashore missile defense system, while considering an option of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense.

Malaysia burns foreign trawler to curb illegal fishing

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian maritime authorities on Wednesday publicly set fire to a foreign fishing boat for the first time in a move to deter illegal fishing. The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency said authorities had previously quietly sunk 285 foreign fishing boats nationwide to create artificial reefs but the method failed to attract attention and curb illegal fishing. It said the boat was set ablaze at sea before being sunk earlier Wednesday off northern Kelantan state, the first time authorities took the public step to stave off incursions by foreign trawlers. It didn't say where the boat was from. "The disposal by burning method is aimed at sending a clear message to the domestic and international community that the Malaysian government is serious in battling the incursion of foreign fishermen in our waters," Mohamad Taha Ibrahim, the agency's deputy director-general of operations, said in a statement.

World

Poland calls for reparations amid strains with Germany

AP

In this Aug. 24, 2017 photo a woman walks past posters in Warsaw, Poland, calling on Germany to pay reparations for World War II to Poland.

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—In the decades since the end of World War II, reminding Germany of its Nazi past has become a temptation whenever tensions arise over current events in Europe.

So recent assertions by politicians in Warsaw that Germany owes Poland reparations for the mass atrocities and destruction the brutal Nazi occupation of the country are being met with skepticism from some, even though many Poles support the calls.

The Polish government has not named a sum, but lawmakers and sympathetic media outlets estimate Germany owes Poland anywhere from hundreds of billions to several trillion dollars for the six years the Nazis occupied Poland, set up death camps and killed nearly a fifth of the population.

"Poland is only asking for justice ... The injury has not been repaired in any way at all. Just the opposite," Prime Minister Beata Szydlo said last week. This week, however, she said the government hasn't yet decided whether to make an official demand.

Germany says the matter of financial compensation was settled long ago, and international legal scholars agree Poland has no legal claim to compensation at this point. What's more, the demand has emerged amid rising tensions between Poland and Western European powers.

The timing has caused some political observers in Poland to accuse Szydlo and her ruling Law and Justice party of fomenting anti-German sentiment to distract voters from other problems, mainly criticism from the European Union and prominent members Germany and France over the party's erosions of rule of law.

"For Law and Justice, it's good to show in this moment that the Germans owe us something," said Agnieszka Lada, an expert on Polish-German affairs with the Institute of Public Affairs in Warsaw. "The point isn't money. The point is that Germany should not dare lecture Poland."

Ryszard Czarnecki, a Law and Justice member and vice-president of the European Parliament, told The Associated Press that the ruling party, more popular now than when it won the 2015 general election, has no need for diversionary tactics.

"The current Polish government has a feeling that this is the will of Polish citizens and that we are owed this historically, legally and morally," Czarnecki said.

The calls for reparations started in July when Law and Justice leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski said that "Germany for many years refused to take responsibility for World War II" and the Polish government was preparing "a historical counteroffensive," renewing calls that have emerged in the past, also in times of tensions with Germany.

Within days, party lawmakers, pro-government media and other groups joined the campaign. One group plastered pro-reparations posters on the sides of some buildings in Warsaw. Surveys show a majority of Poles think Germany still owes them.

"They got rich. They robbed Poland completely of gold, money, everything," said Bogumila Tkacz, 75, who was born during the war. "Where is all of that? We had so many cultural goods, paintings, everything. Everything is gone, no one returned anything."

Berlin says the issue of reparations was settled in 1953, when Poland's communist government renounced its right to war-related compensation, a position Warsaw reconfirmed over the years. Individual Poles—including Polish slave laborers and victims of scientific experiments and Polish-Jewish Holocaust survivors—have received compensation from Germany. In the postwar redrawing of borders Poland was given substantial territory previously in eastern Germany, though that wasn't strictly considered reparations because Poland had to renounce territory in the east to the Soviet Union.

Kremlin confirms Trump's lawyer reached out about deal

MOSCOW (AP)—The Kremlin on Wednesday confirmed that President Donald Trump's personal lawyer reached out to them during the 2016 presidential campaign, seeking help for a business project in Russia.

In a statement to the House Intelligence Committee investigating Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia, Trump's personal lawyer Michael Cohen said Monday the president's company pursued a project in Moscow during the Republican primary. He said the plan was abandoned for various reasons.

President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters in Moscow on Wednesday that they received Cohen's email, which was sent to the press office's general email address. Peskov said it was one of many emails the Kremlin press office gets—since its email address is available online—and that the Kremlin did not reply to it.

Cohen said he worked on the real estate proposal with Felix Sater, a Russia-born associate who he said claimed to have deep connections in Moscow.

The discussions about a real estate deal in Moscow occurred in the fall of 2015, months after Trump had declared his presidential bid. They ended early in 2016 when Cohen determined that the project was not feasible, according to Cohen's statement.

Cohen also disclosed that Trump was personally aware of the deal, signing a letter of intent and discussing it with Cohen on two other occasions.

Asked whether Putin had seen the email, Peskov said Wednesday that he "cannot discuss with President Putin the hundreds and thousands of various requests coming from different countries" that end up in that Kremlin mailbox.

Peskov said the press office did not reply to Cohen's email because it "does not react to such business requests. It is not our job."

Trump campaigned on improving US relations with Russia, but Moscow is disappointed in the lack of progress.

Anatoly Antonov, the newly appointed Russian ambassador who is soon to take up his post in Washington, was quoted Wednesday by the newspaper Kommersant as bemoaning "the hyper-activity of the Russophobe lobby" in the United States.

US airstrikes block evacuation of Islamic State militants

BEIRUT (AP)—U.S. airstrikes blocked the advance of an Islamic State convoy carrying militants toward Iraq on Wednesday, derailing a Hezbollah-negotiated deal that removed the extremists from the Lebanon-Syria border, where they have been for years.

The airstrikes came amid U.S. criticism of the deal, reflecting a growing outrage within the Trump administration over the decision to give the militants safe passage from the battlefield instead of killing them, and Iran-backed Hezbollah's leading role in it.

The developments also were an embarrassment for the U.S.-backed Lebanese military, which agreed to the deal and had declared victory over the militants.

U.S. officials said the airstrikes to disrupt the fleeing militants were intended to send a strong signal that the deal, while helping to clear IS from the border, undermined a broader U.S.-led strategy for defeating the group in Syria and Iraq.

More than 48 hours after they left the Syria-Lebanon border for eastern Syria, the buses carrying 300 militants and almost as many of their relatives were stuck in a desert area on the outskirts of the largely IS-held Deir el-Zour province near the frontier with Iraq.

It is not clear how the standoff will be resolved. Syrian activists say alternate routes are being considered to bring the militants to Boukamal, an IS-controlled town on the Iraqi border, according to the agreement.

But officials of the U.S.-led coalition said they will continue to monitor the convoy and aren't ruling out more airstrikes.

"Irreconcilable (IS) terrorists should be killed on the battlefield, not bused across Syria to the Iraqi border without Iraq's consent," according to a tweet from Brett McGurk, the top U.S. envoy for the anti-Islamic State coalition.

The evacuation deal followed separate but simultaneous weeklong offensives by the Lebanese army on one side of the border and by the Syrian government and Hezbollah on the other. Hezbollah has thousands of fighters shoring up the forces of President Bashar Assad.

Iraq also reacted angrily to the evacuation, with its president saying that moving the militants to the Iraqi-Syrian border was an "insult."

Later Wednesday, the coalition said its warplanes struck a small bridge and cratered a road to hinder the convoy without targeting the evacuees. Airstrikes also hit a separate group of IS militants traveling to meet the convoy, according to Col. Ryan Dillon, a coalition spokesman.

Responding to the criticism but not addressing the airstrikes, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said in a statement that negotiating with the militants was the "only way" to resolve the "humanitarian and national" issue of finding the remains of nine Lebanese soldiers that the militants kidnapped in 2014.

Hezbollah is a significant player in Lebanon with government ministers and lawmakers, while the role of its fighters also has been growing in Syria.

The Syrian government, backed by Russian air power and Iranian-organized militias including Hezbollah, has focused its military campaign in recent weeks on Deir el-Zour, where government troops have been besieged for years in the provincial capital.

Dillon criticized Moscow and Damascus for allowing the buses of militants to travel through territory they control.

Off The Wall

Postal workers charged with taking bribes to deliver drugs

ATLANTA (AP)—Sixteen postal workers in Atlanta and the surrounding area accepted bribes to deliver packages of cocaine, federal prosecutors said Wednesday.

In exchange for bribery payments, the postal workers provided special addresses on their routes where the drugs could be shipped and then intercepted the packages and delivered them to a person they believed was a drug trafficker using the postal system to ship multiple kilograms of cocaine at a time into the area, U.S. Attorney John Horn said.

But it was actually a sting operation: The supposed drug trafficker was working with law enforcement and the packages contained fake drugs.

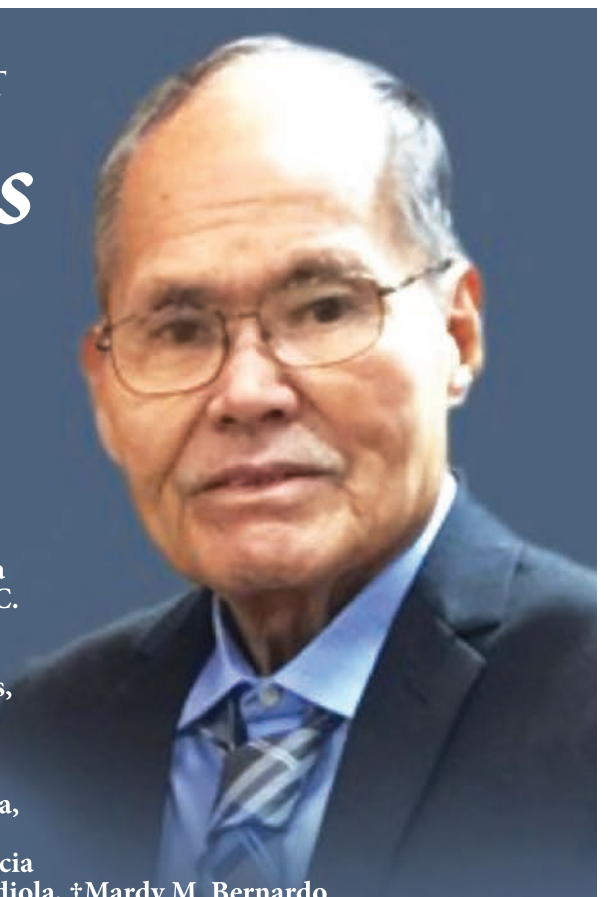
"Postal employees are entrusted with a vital function in our communities. They often are visiting people's homes and having personal interaction with our citizens," Horn said. "The defendants in this case allegedly breached that critical trust by accepting work from somebody that they believed to be a drug dealer. For a simple few extra bucks in their pockets, they were willing to not only bring what they believed to be dangerous drugs into our communities, but they also jeopardized the safety of their co-workers and the residents they served."

Some of the postal workers recruited others to join the trafficking scheme and got extra money for packages delivered by their recruits, Horn said.

FUNERAL & DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

†*Daniel Duenas Sasakura*

January 25, 1939 – August 26, 2017



In His New Life, He now joins his:

Mother: †Beata Duenas Mendiola
Step-Father: †Tomas Camacho Mendiola
Aunts & Uncles: †Beda H. & †Rudolfo A. Mundo, †Maria D. & †Rafael Atalig & †Teresa D. & †Manuel A. Manglona, †Maria C. Mendiola, †Sabina M. & †Carlos S. Calvo; †Dimas H. & †Cecilia A. Hocog, †Joaquin H. & †Lucia Duenas, †Felis C. & †Heronima T. Mendiola, †Felipe C. & †Joaquina M. Mendiola, †Pedro C. & †Meriam W. Mendiola, †Baldomero C. & †Maria C. Mendiola, †Isaias H. Atalig
Brothers-in-law: †Fidel A. Mendiola, †Edward M. Garcia
Sisters-in-law: †Ana O. Mendiola, †Andrea M. Mendiola, †Mardy M. Bernardo
Nephews & Nieces: †Alfred S. Mendiola, †Alfred James Mendiola, †Gabriel M. Mendiola, †Sean P. Camacho, †Beata S. Mendiola

And will forever be remembered in the hearts of his:

Wife: Gina Maligson Sasakura
Children: Clifford M. Sasakura (Ellis Marie F. Sasakura)
Donnalyn S. & Onur Kuru (Joseph Jordon, Daniel Kobe, Isabella Emine)
Janet Thi Nguyen
Danica M. Sasakura
Daniel D. Sasakura, II
Father: Francisco Toshio Sasakura
Parents-in-law: Eduardo C. & Marlene P. Maligson
Aunt: Rosa M. Atalig & Children
Sisters & Brothers: Fermina S. Mendiola & Children
Lorenza M. Garcia & Children
Alejo A. & Florita Mendiola & Children
Diego D. & Angelita P. Mendiola & Children
Thomas D. Mendiola & Children
Sisters & Brothers-in-law:
Irene M. & Gerald M. Calvo, II & Children
Louise P. & Mylene Maligson
Ed Marvin P. & Arlene Maligson
Rodelyn P. & Roel Dela Cruz & Children

He will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces and godchildren.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00a.m.; Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:00p.m. at San Francisco de Borja Church, Rota.

On Tuesday, September 05, 2017 at 07:30a.m.,his remains will be escorted from Rota Health Center Chapel to San Francisco de Borja Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at San Jose Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase Ginen I Familia

Gina M. Sasakura, children and family

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Lottery retires machine that printed record $758.7M ticket

CHICOPEE, Mass. (AP)—Lottery ticket buyers hoping to use the same Massachusetts machine as the recent $758.7 million Powerball jackpot winner are out of luck. The Massachusetts State Lottery has retired the machine that printed the winning ticket belonging to Mavis Wanczyk. The Powerball jackpot she claimed last week is the largest grand prize won by a lottery ticket in U.S. history. State lottery spokesman Christian Teja tells The Boston Globe the machine was removed from a convenience store in Chicopee (CHIH'-kuh-pee) on Saturday and was sent to the lottery's Springfield office for maintenance. He says there is an appetite to preserve "this piece of lottery history." He says some interesting ideas have been proposed. It hasn't been determined where the machine will go next.

Officers stop deer on California bridge for 'toll evasion'

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — California highway officers say they stopped a young deer on a California toll bridge "for toll evasion." A photo published Tuesday by the California Highway Patrol shows the doe on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge standing in the middle of an on-ramp with a deer-in-the-headlights look. The officer joked in a Twitter post that the fawn usually pays the toll but "today she was a buck short." Highway patrol Officer Matthew Hamer says two officers were on patrol on the bridge early Tuesday when the deer came out of the woods on Treasure Island and walked in front of their car. He says after staring at them for a couple of minutes and long enough for the officers to snap a photograph that the deer went back into the woods.

Police: 2 woman dressed as nuns try to rob Pennsylvania bank

TANNERSVILLE, Pa. (AP)—Police say two women dressed as nuns attempted to rob a bank in Pennsylvania's Poconos. Authorities say the women walked into Citizens Bank near Tannersville on Monday and one brandished a handgun, demanding money from a teller. But they left without taking anything. Each woman was wearing a black nun's habit and veil. One woman also was wearing sunglasses. The FBI is investigating and posted bank surveillance photos on Twitter.

Tiger the tabby is one of Sing Sing prison's last felines

OSSINING, N.Y. (AP)—An orange tabby named Tiger is enjoying his role as one of the last cats living at New York's Sing Sing Correctional Facility. The prison north of New York City once had hundreds of resident felines freely roaming its buildings and grounds. Today, fewer than a dozen remain. Sing Sing is where Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed in 1953 after their espionage convictions. Tiger broke into the maximum-security facility about a decade ago. The Wall Street Journal says Tiger turns his nose up at tuna from the mess hall but will gladly chow down on tuna that inmates buy for him at the commissary. Tiger obeys the officers and once scared a groundhog away from lettuce in the prison garden. Inmate Jermaine Archer says Tiger is getting old, fat and slow. But Archer adds: "We love him."

UFO enthusiasts heading to Wyoming for upcoming rendezvous

DEVILS TOWER, Wyo. (AP)—Just like in the science-fiction movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," UFO enthusiasts are being drawn to a strange geological formation in Wyoming. Devils Tower played a key role in the well-known UFO film that came out 40 years ago this year. The first Devils Tower UFO Rendezvous will be held at the site from Sept. 14-16. The formation is actually the solidified core of an ancient volcano. Experts on UFOs will speak at the convention. Organizer Brian Olson tells KOTA-TV) that there's a fun side, too, with plans for a parade, live music and barbecue cook-off. Devils Tower stands more than 800 feet (243 meters) tall and can be seen for miles.

Wayward alligator found in motel pool was part of rap video

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Authorities have solved the mystery of how an alligator ended up in a swimming pool at a motel on the New Jersey shore. They say the 3-foot-long (0.91-meter-long) alligator found Aug. 15 at the Bayview Inn & Suites in Atlantic City was part of a rap video filmed there by two men. The alligator was found when police conducted a raid at the site. Items found during the raid led to the arrest Tuesday of the two men on armed robbery charges.

Science & Technology

TECH Q&A

iPhones are safer from 'drive-by download' attacks

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I read your column about preventing "drive-by download" attacks that try to put malware on phones with the Android operating system (see tinyurl.com/y8e37w4b). How can iPhone owners protect themselves?

A: iPhones aren't as susceptible to drive-by malware attacks as Android phones are. That's because iPhone users can download only apps that have been approved as safe by Apple. Here's how it works:

Android phones have two download settings. One setting allows the user to download apps only from the Google Play store, where apps are supposed to be screened for malware. The other setting allows apps to be installed from any website, whether it checks for malware or not.

That second setting also opens up Android phones to drive-by malware attacks, in which disreputable websites prompt users to accept app downloads that they didn't request _ downloads which really contain malware.

IPhones are set to allow downloads only from Apple's App Store, and consumers can't change that setting as part of the phone's normal operations. Because users can't download apps from anywhere else, drive-by malware attacks on the iPhone aren't possible.

However, that doesn't mean that iPhones are immune to malware. New vulnerabilities in the iPhone's iOS operating system are discovered periodically, forcing Apple to issue software patches to protect the phones (see tinyurl.com/lael6fo). In addition, some iPhone owners have courted trouble by using special non-Apple software to "jailbreak" their phones. Jailbreaking allows an iPhone to download and install apps from non-Apple websites. But it also disables part of the iPhone's security software, leaving the phone vulnerable to many types of malware attacks.

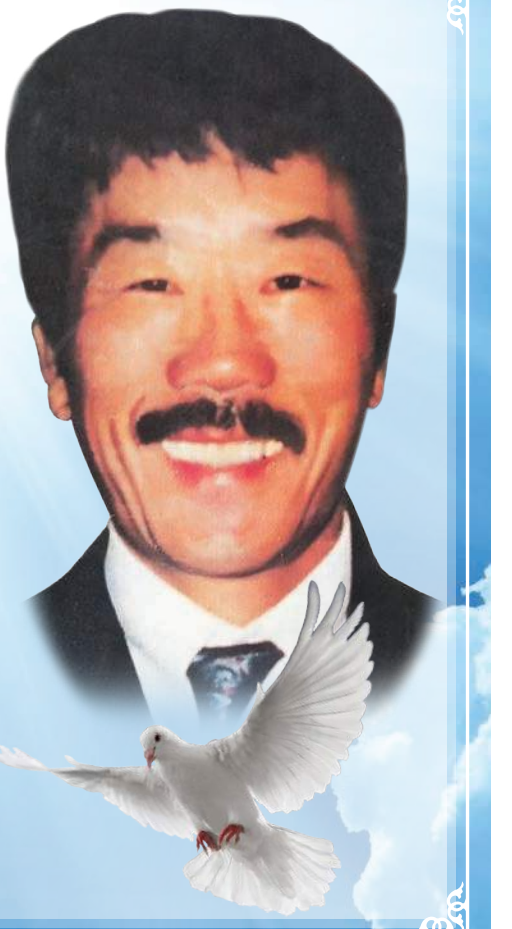
Q: I've always shut down my Dell Windows 7 PC by using the "shut down" command, or, if I have a problem, by forcing the PC to shut down by pushing and holding the power button. But now my PC often can't find my Wi-Fi router (only 4 feet away) unless I restart the PC several times. I tried restarting the router and modem, but it made no difference. What can I do?

A: Windows needs to be shut down in an orderly way, and your forced shutdowns have probably damaged the operating system. If you have a Windows installation disk or system repair disk, try fixing Windows 7 (see "How to run a repair" at tinyurl.com/y7f5e2kg).

In Humble Gratitude

The family of

†Kwang Young Kim



Would like to express our heartfelt appreciation
to our relatives and friends
for all their prayers, words of comfort,
and support throughout our time of sorrow.
Although we mourn the passing of our beloved †Young,
we also rejoice to the end of his sufferings
and the beginning of his new life in paradise.

Let us continue to pray for each other for
love, hope, and peace.
From our hearts, thank you, for all your love,
prayers, and kindness.

Shirley Kim, Children, and Family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Oliver Wayne "Pete" Shilling

BORN ON JUNE 22, 1944, CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME ON AUGUST 24, 2017

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father:	**† Oliver Spoor Shilling**
Mother:	**† Ruth Joy Shilling**
Father-in-Law:	**† Juan Quitugua Norita**
Mother-in-Law:	**† Maria Baleto Norita**
Step Mother-in-Law:	**† Ana Manglona Norita**
Brother-in-Law:	**† Isidro Manglona Norita**
Sister-in-Law:	**† Connie Norita Taisacan**

His memories will live on in his:
Wife: **Lucia Norita Shilling**

Children, Stepchildren, & Grand Children:
Daniel William Shilling & Maileen Shilling
Joseph Peter, Monica Kay, & Anna Mae
Christina Ruth Shilling
Kimberly Barnes Yamauchi & Ryan Yamauchi
Kyra Hanako & Trevor Isidro
Kevin Eric Norita Barnes & Victoria Sorrell
Megan Lucia

Brother, Sister, Nieces, & Nephews:
James F. Shilling & Nancy Shilling
Barbara H. Lynch
Cindy L. Palato, Jim Palato & David Ross

He will also be remembered by numerous Brothers/Sisters-in-law, Cousins, Grand Nieces, and Grand Nephews.

Daily Eucharistic Celebration for the repose of his soul are being celebrated at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag every evening at 6:00pm, followed by Daily Rosary at 7:00pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, September 2, 2017 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral.
The remains will arrive at 8:30am for the Responso Service and Holy Rosary, followed by the Eulogies and Holy Mass.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Tanapag Cemetery where he will be at peaceful rest, followed by the reception at Tanapag Social Hall.

Please join us in prayers,
LUCIA N. SHILLING, CHILDREN, AND FAMILY

Life & Style

Mark Hamill on Luke Skywalker's return, losing Carrie Fisher

NEW YORK (AP)—When we last saw Mark Hamill in the "Star Wars" saga, he was a mysterious hooded figure on a jagged, remote island off the coast of Ireland.

"For a cameo that brief, boy did they make me work," Hamill jokes.

But in "The Last Jedi," which Disney will release Dec. 15, Hamill plays a much larger role. "Star Wars" will buzz again—34 years later—with its original hero. Luke Skywalker is back.

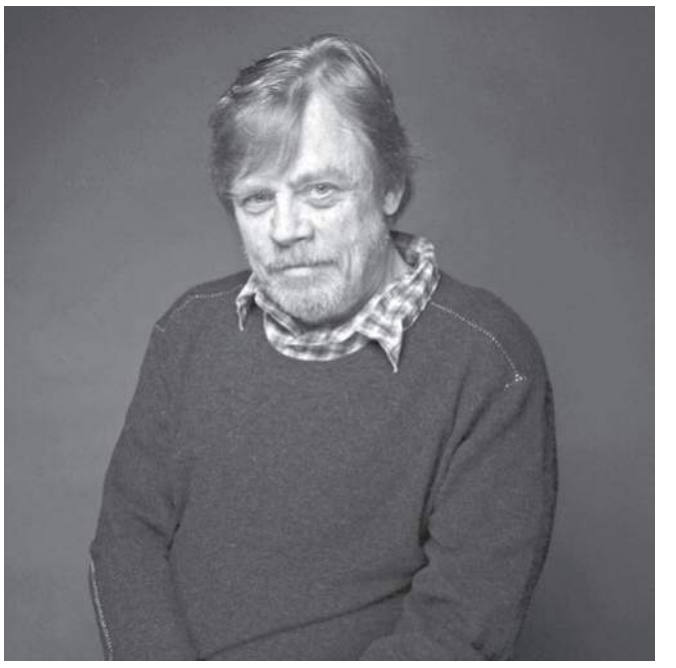
In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Hamill spoke by phone from Malibu, California. "It's just the calm before the storm," he said. "With something like this, it's almost too high-profile for comfort."

Hamill, though, is a veteran. He's been living with the glare of "Star Wars" for a long time. "The movie had such an impact, you thought: Oh my gosh, I already know what the first line in my obituary is going to be," he said. "Which is odd and eerie."

Having briefly served as a copyboy at the AP's Los Angeles bureau while a college student, Hamill introduced himself as "a fellow AP employee." Jedi masters, it turns out, hail from the most unexpected corners of the universe.

AP: Do you ever reflect on how much your life changed by a simple audition for a funny-sounding science-fiction adventure more than four decades ago?

Hamill: The thing is, they got it down to two sets of three: a Han, a Luke and a Leia. There were three other actors, and then Carrie, Harrison and myself. And there was never a mix or a match. You go with one team or another. It's just weird. I did a TV series called "The Texas Wheelers," which I thought at the time was really groundbreaking. We got canceled so quickly, but if that had been a success, I wouldn't have been able to do "Star Wars." Fate is a funny thing. Who knew?



AP

In this Jan. 23, 2017 file photo, actor Mark Hamill poses for a portrait during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

AP: After all these years, how did it feel to be Luke again?

Hamill: A thing that felt maybe wrong about coming back was the fact that the original trilogy had a beginning, a middle and an end. But there's two ways of looking at that. On the one hand, it had closure. But if you look at it another way, it's the story of how Luke went from becoming a farm boy to a Jedi and then the story ends. It would be like telling the story of how James Bond got his license to kill and became 007, and the story ends.

AP: So you had some hesitation?

Hamill: When they asked me to come back, it was scary. I thought, "Gee, it was hard to catch lightning in a bottle the first time. I don't know if this is such a wise idea." When we left, even if they were going to do a third trilogy, it wouldn't have anything to do with us. George (Lucas) never said you're going to do three more. He did mention maybe coming back and doing a cameo and handing Excalibur to the next young hope. This is back when we were doing the first one and I thought, "What is this supposed to be?"

AP: Did this feel like a different Luke to you? It sounds as though this is a darker version of the character that may be unfamiliar to fans and even to you.

Hamill: Absolutely. Luke changed, I think, more than the other characters in the original trilogy, from callow farm boy to a Jedi in training to finally a Jedi master. What you're talking about is what really fascinated me. Between "Return of the Jedi" and "Force Awakens," there's just decades of history that's unknown. So I was wondering how they're going to handle all this. Now, obviously, with "Force Awakens," J.J. (Abrams) had a full plate. It was inevitable that they would push me down the line. I was sorry I wasn't able to work with any of the original actors again. But it's not about us anymore. In this new one, I was saying to Rian Johnson: I need to know my backstory. It was kind of unclear. You read where he is now and what he's doing now and sort of have to fill in the blanks for yourself. So I did do a backstory myself. It's not about Luke anymore, so it's not really important. But I had to make sense of it for myself. What Rian came up with, I was stunned.

AP: Does it feel different to be putting out a "Star Wars" movie without Carrie Fisher, who died in December, and Harrison Ford, who exited with "Force Awakens"?

Hamill: It is different. She was irreplaceable. There can never be a proper reunion anymore. It's tragic. I hate that it adds an air of melancholy to the film because it doesn't deserve it. I know for a fact she would obviously want us to be having fun. She was all about laughter and enjoying the moment. We're all sort of having this communal period of grief. In a way, it sort of reflects the movies themselves, which were about triumphs and tragedies. They are about a family—a dysfunctional family, but a family nonetheless.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

† *Merced Camacho Peterson*

Also known as "Beling" or "Blondie"
Born on September 27, 1950,
was called to eternal life on August 25, 2017

In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband	†Ronald Asa Peterson
Mother	†Theodora Sablan Camacho
Father	†Jack Eugene Hattig, Sr.
Brothers In-Law	†Joseph W. Torres
	†Dwayne A. Johnson

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Son and Family:

Jess Camacho and Lynn B. Duenas Peterson
Vinson Edward Deleon Guerrero &
Celine F. Orsini *(Kaiya Cadence)*
Jesse Brandon & Amanda Mae Ramon
(Jesse Brandon, Jr.), Jesse John Hiroaki
Duenas Yamagishi, Donavin Kenji
Duenas Yamagishi, Zackery Shigeru
Duenas Yamagishi & Shenina H.
Delgado, Daenna Mari Duenas Yamagishi

Step-Mother:	Erlinda Hattig
Maternal Sisters:	Rosita C. Torres & Family
	Anigonia C. and Daniel Moy & Family
	Debra C. Johnson & Family
Paternal Brothers & Sister:	Jack E. Hattig, Jr. & Family
	Daniel J. Hattig & Family
	John D. Hattig, Sr. & Maria Duarte & Family
	Walter J. Hattig & Family
	Juanita L. Gumataotao
	Herbert G. and Marilyn Hattig & Family
	Keith W. and Delai Hattig, Sr. & Family

She is additionally survived by numerous aunties, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00 pm, Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 am, and San Roque Church at 6:00 pm. Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, September 06, 2017. Her remains will lie in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:00 am with Responso Service followed by Holy Rosary. Her remains will be escorted to Kristo Rai Church at 9:00 am. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 9:30 am followed by Interment Service at the CNMI Veteran's Cemetery, Marpi, Saipan.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Thank you

Jess & Lynn Peterson, Children, and Families

Floral tributes laid at the palace for Diana anniversary

LONDON (AP) — People have begun laying floral tributes, photos and personal messages at the gates of Kensington Palace as Britain observes the 20th anniversary of the death of Princess Diana.

Thursday marks two decades since Diana died in a car crash in Paris, triggering a flood of public grief.

Princes William and Harry honored their mother Wednesday at Kensington Palace, her former home, visiting a garden where she would stroll by and ask the gardeners about their ever-changing displays.

The princes and the Duchess of Cambridge met with well-wishers after the walk, but aren't expected to take part in any engagements Thursday.

The weeks leading up to the anniversary have been met with reflection in Britain as the public remembers "the people's princess" and considers her contributions to the country.

AP

Tributes, candles and flowers are laid by royal fans for the late Diana, Princess of Wales outside Kensington Palace in London, Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017.

Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation gives $1M to Harvey relief

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP)—The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation has donated $1 million to the newly established United Way Harvey Recovery Fund which will go toward short and long term relief and recovery efforts.

United Way Worldwide said Wednesday that the national fund will distribute 100 percent of donations to recovery efforts for those affected by Hurricane Harvey.

"We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of Leonardo DiCaprio and his foundation," said United Way Worldwide President and CEO Brian Gallagher in a statement. "Responding to Hurricane Harvey requires the best of all of us—and that's what this gift represents."

United Way is the world's largest privately-funded nonprofit and anticipates Harvey recovery efforts will take several years.

The $1 million from DiCaprio's foundation represents the inaugural donation to the fund. It is the latest disaster relief support from the Oscar-winner's namesake foundation. DiCaprio and his foundation have previously donated to recovery efforts following the 2004 tsunami, the Haiti earthquake and Hurricane Sandy.

"We hope others will step up and support the United Way and other organizations," foundation CEO Terry Tamminen said in the press release.

Many celebrities have pulled out their pocketbooks to help Harvey victims in recent days including Sandra Bullock, who on Tuesday donated $1 million to the American Red Cross.

Bening at Venice: Still a long way to go to movie equality

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Female directors should fight film-industry sexism by making movies that appeal to as wide an audience as possible, Venice Film Festival jury president Annette Bening said Wednesday, the first day of a festival that has been criticized for a lack of female voices.

"American Beauty" star Bening, a four-time Academy Awards nominee, heads the panel that will choose a winner of the Golden Lion from among 21 films competing for the festival's top prize. Only one is by a woman: Vivian Qu's "Angels Wear White."

Bening said "it's a long road" to equality but things are changing for the better.

She told reporters at the festival that "we as women have to be very sharp and shrewd and creative ourselves about what we chose to make."

She said all directors struggle to get films made and "there is a lot of sexism of course."

"I think the more that we as women can make films that speak to everyone, we can be regarded as filmmakers," Bening added.

Matt Damon goes mini in Venice opener "Downsizing"

VENICE, Italy (AP)—"Downsizing" has generated jumbo-sized buzz at the Venice Film Festival—not least as viewers debate how to describe it.

Is it a science fiction film, a romantic comedy, a political parable, an apocalyptic thriller? Alexander Payne's movie mixes all those elements in its story of a man, played by Matt Damon, who tries to solve his problems by shrinking himself.

Damon and co-stars Kristen Wiig and Hong Chau joined Payne on the red carpet for the film's Venice premiere Wednesday—the first of 11 days of galas that will bring stars including George Clooney and Jennifer Lawrence to the canal-crossed Italian city.

The Venice opening-night slot has become coveted by filmmakers hoping to make a splash come awards season. Several recent Venice openers, including "Gravity" and "La La Land," have gone on to win multiple Academy Awards.

"Downsizing" has ingredients that could help it strike a similar chord with audiences and awards voters: a likable, bankable star in Damon; a strong supporting cast that includes Wiig and Christophe Waltz; and an imaginative story laced with compassion and humor.

Payne says despite its sci-fi premise and international canvas, "Downsizing" is not so different to the films he's best known for—funny-sad stories of middle aged or Midwestern strugglers such as "About Schmidt," ''Sideways" and "Nebraska."

"It has the same sense of humor and basically the same tone," Payne told reporters in Venice on Wednesday.

The movie applies Payne's wry eye for human foibles to a plot that explores the power and limits of science and the threat of environmental catastrophe.

The script by Payne and Jim Taylor opens with a Norwegian scientist making a breakthrough he thinks will save humanity: a technique that can shrink people to 5 inches (12 centimeters) tall. That means they use a tiny fraction of the resources they once did—and need to pay less, allowing people of modest means to grow instantly rich by becoming small.

The movie has fun imagining what the miniaturized world would be like, as Damon goes to live in a luxury micro-city, a sort of retirement community for the tiny.

N. Korea threatens S. Korean reporters over book review

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has vowed to execute reporters from two South Korean newspapers, saying they insulted the country's dignity while reviewing and interviewing the British authors of a book about life in the isolated country.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency on Thursday carried a state court statement expressing anger over the descriptions of North Korean lives as increasingly capitalist. It also objected to the translated title of the South Korean edition as "Capitalist People's Republic of Korea."

The North hasn't directly threatened the British authors although it says their book "viciously defamed and distorted" the country's realities.

North Korean propaganda is often filled with odd and extreme threats. In June, it vowed to execute South Korea's former president and her spy chief over an alleged plot to assassinate its leadership.

Sharing news of diagnosis is difficult for Parkinson's patient

DEAR ABBY: I'm an active, 60-something wife, mother and grandmother who was recently diagnosed with early stage Parkinson's disease. From all outward appearances, I appear healthy and I'm living my life as normally as possible, as my neurologist suggested.

My symptom manifests as a right-sided (dominant side) hand tremor that I try to hide as much as possible. Covering my hand with a napkin in a restaurant, sliding it under my leg or putting it into my pocket has worked so far to prevent the tremors from being noticed. This is not going to work for long.

My immediate family members are aware of my condition, but I haven't told extended family, friends or acquaintances about my situation. I become very emotional when discussing it and break down and cry. Can you suggest how to broach this subject, and when to tell others about my condition? Your guidance would be very much appreciated.

HIDING AS MUCH AS I CAN

DEAR HIDING: I'm sorry about your difficult diagnosis, but I hope you have done some research and are comforted that there have been advances in the treatment of your illness. We both know that at some point a sharp-eyed friend or relative will notice the tremor and ask about it. That's why I think it's important you be proactive about what's going on. However, if you would prefer to be spared tearful conversations you would rather avoid, ask one of your loved ones to let the others know. Because immediate family members already know, chances are the information will spread that way, too.

DEAR ABBY: My family is the definition of dysfunctional. We all honestly could use some therapy after everything we've been through. I feel like I'm the only rational person in my family. I am the only one who sought professional help.

My sister "Alexa" is a narcissist. I realized it a long time ago. My mother is in denial, and she continues to push me to have a relationship with her. Speaking to Alexa is emotionally draining. Every time she's mentioned, I get flashbacks about the ways she abused me. Being in the same room with her is uncomfortable. The saving grace is that we live a thousand miles apart, and I'm not forced to interact with her daily.

She's getting married next year and wants me and my children to be in the wedding. I accepted because I felt obligated, but I just can't do it anymore. I don't WANT to do it anymore! After all the years of her abuse and torment, I just want to be free. The problem: I finally put my foot down and told Alexa not to contact me again. Am I being selfish?

SELFISH IN THE EAST

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR SELFISH: I don't think so. However, because you accepted that responsibility before telling her not to contact you again, YOU should contact HER and ask if she has changed her plans about you and your children being in her wedding. (You may be pleasantly surprised to find her answer is yes.) However, if she hasn't, be upfront with her NOW so your sister will have time to replace you in her wedding party.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

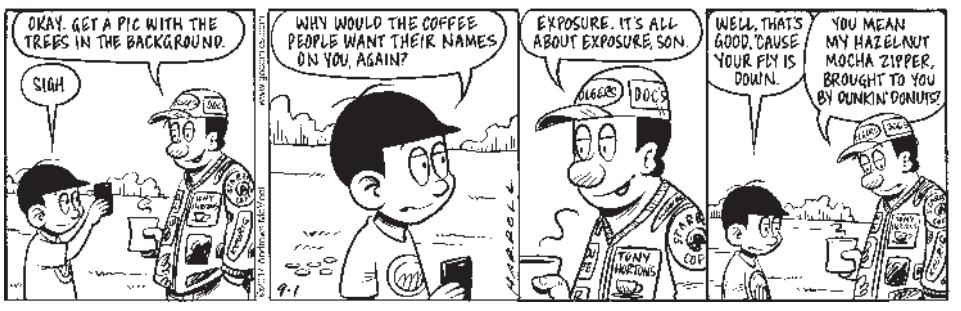
WHAT YEAR IN THE FUTURE ARE WE GOING TO LAND?
TIME MACHINE
IT'S HARD TO PINPOINT EXACTLY, BUT I'D SAY SOMETIME AROUND THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.
I HOPE OL' EARTH IS STILL AROUND THEN. I'VE GROWN FOND OF IT.
IF NOT, WE'LL RETURN TO THE PRESENT AND SEE IF DAD WILL GIVE ME MY COLLEGE TUITION EARLY IN CASH.
TIME MACHINE

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. GET A PIC WITH THE TREES IN THE BACKGROUND.
SIGH
WHY WOULD THE COFFEE PEOPLE WANT THEIR NAMES ON YOU, AGAIN?
EXPOSURE. IT'S ALL ABOUT EXPOSURE, SON.
WELL, THAT'S GOOD, 'CAUSE YOUR FLY IS DOWN.
YOU MEAN MY HAZELNUT MOCHA ZIPPER, BROUGHT TO YOU BY DUNKIN' DONUTS?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

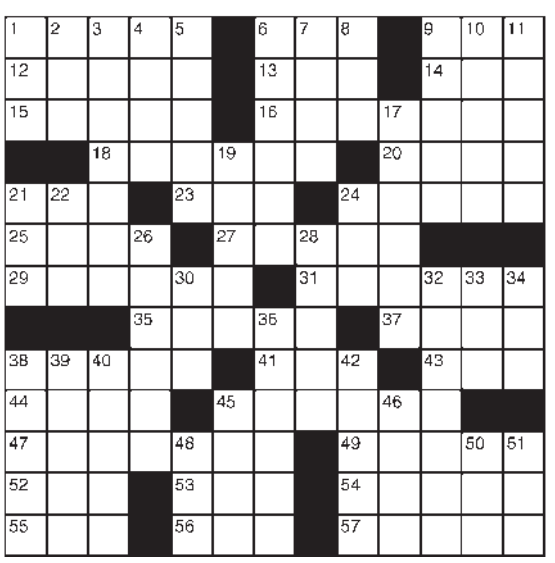
ACROSS
1 "No more for me, thanks"
6 Kimono sash
9 "Alice" waitress
12 Persian Gulf nation
13 Family
14 Young bloke
15 Native Israeli
16 Minnesota city
18 Greek vowels
20 Pitcher Hershiser
21 "Fresh Air" airer
23 — Juan
24 Spine-tingling
25 Campus mil. group
27 Bob Marley fan, often
29 — -Lorraine
31 Certain Sooner
35 Rene of "Ransom"
37 Sicilian peak
38 Trombone part
41 Back talk
43 Keystone lawman
44 BMW rival
45 Cell centers
47 Missouri city
49 Really annoy
52 Haw preceder
53 Ultimate
54 John Jacob —
55 Ninny
56 Susan of "L.A. Law"
57 Inventor Nikola

DOWN
1 Mensa stats
2 Goat's plaint
3 Caribbean island, informally
4 British noble
5 Snares
6 Olympic skater Baiul
7 Morsels
8 Business mag
9 Plant life
10 "Today" host Matt
11 "Strange as it seems ..."
17 Venue
19 Long-eared hoppers
21 Gun lobby org.
22 D.C. figure
24 Actor Erwin
26 Aerobic workout, briefly
28 Unemotional
30 Prompt
32 Caribbean island
33 Year in Mexico
34 Snooze
36 Like melting snow
38 Malia's sister
39 Mandolins' cousins
40 Does nothing
42 Fold
45 Evening, in an ad
46 Lighten
48 German conjunction
50 MSN alternative
51 — -la-la

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	P	E	C			C	E	L		S	P	E	D
T	E	L	L			C	N	C		H	I	R	E
A	R	E	A			L	E	C		R	A		N
B	U	M	M	E	D			S	P	I	N	E	S
				M	R	S				U	N	O	
O	N	L	Y		O	N	O	N	E	L	E	G	
W	E	E			U	R	L			E	R	A	
L	E	G	A	L	P	A	D		E	G	G	Y	
			A	N	O			W	A	D			
J	A	C	K	A	L		C	O	D	E	S	T	
E	L	I	A			A	I	R		I	R	A	S
D	O	E	R			M	O	L		E	L	L	A
I	T	S	A			B	U	D		S	E	E	R

Yesterday's answer 9-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zendaya, 21; Gloria Estefan, 60; Barry Gibb, 71; Lily Tomlin, 78.

Happy Birthday: Think matters through and pursue your goals. Use your intelligence and insight to motivate others to help you get things done. Consider the best way to shift expenses or cut your overhead. A move or change to the way you live will help you secure a stress-free future. Recognize what's important and it will be easier to make adjustments. Your numbers are 5, 12, 22, 27, 35, 38, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Observe the people around you and the way they perform. Loyalty will play a role in the way you move forward. Someone is likely to withhold important information. Use intelligence and common sense when making decisions. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Look for any opening that will help you advance. Discussing your attributes and services will lead to unexpected interest and potential prospects. Events involving both mental and physical ability will require concentration and discipline. Show off your skills. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stop and consider your next move. Whether it's a purchase or something someone does, try not to overreact or be impulsive. Slow down, observe and wait for all the pertinent facts to unfold before making a decision. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take the path that suits you, not the one everyone else is following. You have to be true to yourself and your dreams. The ability to do your own thing will bring you the satisfaction you desire and the recognition you deserve. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Lean toward the unusual when handling money, health and contractual matters. Do so quietly to avoid opposition. A chance to alter your course in life professionally can be obtained and will be rewarding. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Do something different. Use your imagination and you'll find a way to turn something you enjoy doing into a lucrative pastime. Socialize with people who are progressive and informative. Avoid costly ventures, entertainment and unnecessary irresponsible purchases. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Keep the peace when dealing with situations that are unpredictable or people who are erratic. Make decisions based on what you know to be true. Concentrate on inner growth and physical appearance, not trying to change someone else. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Speak from the heart when dealing with both personal and professional matters. Showing your concern and offering intelligent solutions based on insight and truth will help you maintain your status quo and ward off anyone who tries to make you look bad. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Plan a getaway. A change of scenery will do you good. Sharing time with someone you love or planning a romantic rendezvous doesn't have to cost a lot. Use your imagination and you will make a lasting impression. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Taking on too much or making impulsive decisions can lead to confusion and loss. Travel, communications and dealing with business partners will result in setbacks. Stick close to home and trust in yourself and what you can do. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't give in to temptation and overspend to update a personal document. Go over every detail and be sure not to leave any important matters up to someone else. Be responsible for your affairs. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't lend or borrow money, possessions or documents. Avoid getting involved in a risky joint venture with a fast talker or someone you are trying to impress. Be cautious whenever money is involved. Avoid temptation. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are thorough, practical and determined. You are adventuresome and upbeat.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6					4		
4	8		2		9		1	7
7			5		3			2
1								8
2			1		7			3
5	7		6		4		2	9
	3						6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	6	3	8	7	4	5	9	2
5	8	4	6	9	2	7	1	3
7	2	9	5	3	1	8	4	6
8	1	6	9	2	5	4	3	7
4	9	2	3	6	7	1	8	5
3	5	7	1	4	8	6	2	9
6	3	1	4	5	9	2	7	8
2	4	5	7	8	3	9	6	1
9	7	8	2	1	6	3	5	4

Difficulty level ★★★ 8/31

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THE SANTA FE RAILWAY Solution: 9 letters

S	I	O	W	A	N	N	E	R	E	S	T	O	R	E
E	N	R	E	W	E	S	T	C	O	A	S	T	V	G
E	U	I	U	V	O	T	P	A	N	O	Z	I	R	A
S	G	L	A	O	C	L	E	U	R	A	T	E	E	T
A	S	D	B	R	S	O	L	R	R	O	W	M	T	E
N	A	A	I	M	T	S	L	E	M	R	S	C	R	W
T	C	B	N	R	S	E	I	O	Y	I	A	X	A	A
A	N	G	S	D	Ⓑ	C	C	M	R	R	N	N	H	Y
F	O	N	E	Ⓤ	I	O	O	U	S	A	O	U	C	S
E	S	I	Ⓗ	E	L	E	O	U	S	I	D	T	S	H
D	I	K	C	T	I	T	G	L	T	F	K	O	I	Y
E	H	A	A	U	N	A	U	A	C	E	C	P	Y	R
P	C	E	O	O	E	T	T	D	N	I	A	E	M	R
O	T	R	C	R	O	S	E	E	F	H	R	K	A	E
T	A	B	A	S	U	P	E	R	A	C	T	A	L	F

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Area, Arizona, Atchison, Blue, Breaking Bad, Bridge, Caboose, Cars, Charter, Chief, Coaches, Colorado, Fees, Ferry, Flatcar, Gateways, Hub, Iowa, Lamy, Line, Locomotive, Missouri, Nevada, Ranch, Rate, Red, Restore, Route, San Diegan, Santa Fe Depot, Scout, Spur, Station, Super, Terminus, Topeka, Tourism, Track, Trains, Tulsan, West Coast, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Silverware

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To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00 PM on September 5, 2017**. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
Dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Cook (2): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Restaurant Waitress (3): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

General Maintenance (2): Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Indians sweep Yankees, who stagger into Red Sox series

NEW YORK (AP)—Trevor Bauer and Ryan Merritt shut down the Yankees' offense, leading the Cleveland Indians to a doubleheader sweep that damaged New York's chances to win the AL East.

Bauer (14-8) won his career-best seventh straight decision, Jose Ramirez tied his big league high with four hits and the Indians took advantage of Gary Sanchez's passed ball in a two-run first inning that stood up for a 2-1 win in Wednesday's opener.

Yandy Diaz hit a two-run single in a four-run first inning against rookie Jordan Montgomery (7-7) in the second game, and Edwin Encarnacion, Yan Gomes and Francisco Lindor added home runs in a 9-4 blowout that completed a three-game series sweep and extended the Indians' winning streak to seven games.

Defending AL champion Cleveland has won 16 of 20, opening a 7 1/2-game lead over second-place Minnesota in the AL Central and moving a season-high 20 games over .500 at 76-56.

AP

Cleveland Indians pitcher Ryan Merritt delivers the ball to the New York Yankees during the first inning in the second game of a baseball doubleheader Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Angels 10, Athletics 8

In Anaheim, California, Mike Trout went 4 for 4 with a homer and scored four times in his return to the lineup, Albert Pujols connected twice and Cliff Pennington hit a go-ahead grand slam in the seventh inning to rally Los Angeles past Oakland.

Pujols drove in four runs and scored three. His two homers moved him into a tie with Jim Thome for seventh place on the career list at 612.

Trout had a triple and two singles for the Angels, who erased a five-run deficit and won their third straight. They remained a game behind Minnesota for the second AL wild card.

Trout snapped an 0-for-17 slump that marked the second-longest hitless skid of his career. He missed the previous two games as a precaution with a stiff neck after crashing into the outfield wall Sunday trying to make a catch.

Matt Olson and Bruce Maxwell homered as the Athletics put up a season-high eight runs in the fourth to build an 8-3 lead. But the Angels scored two in the fifth and five in the seventh, capped by Pennington's first career slam.

Diamondbacks 6, Dodgers 4

In Phoenix, Paul Goldschmidt homered for the third straight game and Robbie Ray struck out 10 in 6 2/3 innings as Arizona handed Los Angeles its first four-game losing streak of the season.

Adam Rosales and Chris Herrmann also went deep for the Diamondbacks, who have won six straight and eight of nine to pull three games ahead of Colorado for the top NL wild card. They'll send Zack Greinke to the mound Thursday looking to become the first team to sweep a series from the Dodgers this year.

Ray allowed four hits and walked two. The left-hander topped 10 strikeouts for the seventh time this season. Fernando Rodney pitched a perfect ninth for his second save in two nights and 34th in 39 tries.

Orioles 8, Mariners 7

In Baltimore, Welington Castillo went 4 for 4 with a homer and three RBIs and Jonathan Schoop singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as Baltimore beat Seattle for its season-high seventh straight victory.

Schoop, Mancini and Craig Gentry also homered for the Orioles, who completed their first three-game sweep of Seattle since 2012. In this one, Baltimore fell behind 6-2 in the third inning before coming back.

Mitch Haniger homered and hit two doubles for Seattle, which completed an arduous 12-game East Coast trip with five straight defeats. After winning two of three in Tampa Bay and Atlanta, the Mariners went 1-2 at Yankee Stadium and came up empty against the sizzling Orioles.

Rangers 8, Astros 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Andrew Cashner pitched eight strong innings, Mike Napoli hit a three-run homer and Texas beat Houston in a game relocated to Florida because of Hurricane Harvey.

A crowd of 6,123 — up from 3,485 the previous night for the opener of a three-game series at Tropicana Field — watched Cashner (8-9) limit the AL West leaders to three hits, one after the second inning.

Napoli's homer off Dallas Keuchel (11-3) capped a six-run fourth inning for the Rangers, who've won two straight following a three-game skid.

Houston's third loss in four games was overshadowed by the announcement earlier Wednesday that the Astros will return to home after Thursday's finale to face the New York Mets this weekend.

After an unscheduled day off, the Astros will play a doubleheader Saturday and afternoon game Sunday against the Mets.

Nationals 4, Marlins 0

In Washington, Stephen Strasburg tossed a complete game six-hitter and also homered, Wilmer Difo added a home run and Washington beat Miami to complete a three-game sweep.

Washington, which has won four in a row, extended its lead in the NL East to 15 games over the Marlins. Miami, which had won 13 of 16 prior to arriving in Washington, had not dropped three in a row since July 14-16.

The Marlins had no answer for Strasburg (11-4), who struck out eight. Strasburg threw 110 pitches. It was Strasburg's second complete game in 179 starts and his first since Aug. 11, 2013, against Philadelphia.

Strasburg is 1-1 with a 0.86 ERA in three starts since returning from a disabled list stint for right elbow nerve impingement.

Red Sox 7, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Mitch Moreland had a pinch-hit homer and drove in four runs, Hanley Ramirez added a solo blast and Boston beat Toronto to complete a three-game sweep.

Rick Porcello (9-15) allowed one run in 6 2/3 innings as the AL East-leading Red Sox moved 5 1/2 games ahead of the second-place New York Yankees, who were swept in a doubleheader by Cleveland. New York and Boston begin a four-game series at Yankee Stadium on Thursday.

Ramirez connected for the second straight game as the Red Sox improved to 8-1 in Toronto this season. Boston is 10-3 overall against the Blue Jays with six meetings remaining at Fenway Park in September.

Brewers 6, Cardinals 5

In Milwaukee, Domingo Santana and Jonathan Villar homered in the sixth inning, and center fielder Keon Broxton made a leaping catch over the wall for the final out.

Corey Knebel pitched the ninth for his 30th save. Chase Anderson (8-3) gave up two hits — both homers — in six innings, three earned runs, struck out six and walked two to improve to 4-0 in nine starts at Miller Park this season.

Santana hit his 22nd homer of the season and Villar's was his 10th, giving Milwaukee a franchise-record nine players with at least 10 homers in a season.

Cubs 17, Pirates 3

In Chicago, Kyle Schwarber hit two home runs, Ian Happ and Anthony Rizzo also went deep and Chicago pounded Pittsburgh.

Chicago tied a season high for runs set against Philadelphia on Saturday and banged out 20 hits to match its highest total since May 12, 2014, at St. Louis. The Cubs (72-60) outscored the Pirates 27-5 in a three-game sweep and moved 12 games above .500 for the first time this year. They also remained 3 1/2 games ahead of Milwaukee for the NL Central lead.

Javier Baez became the first Cubs player in seven years to steal home.

Twins 11, White Sox 1

In Minneapolis, Jose Berrios pitched seven scoreless innings, Brian Dozier had four hits and Eddie Rosario homered twice as Minnesota defeated Chicago.

Berrios (12-6) tied a career high with 11 strikeouts, including seven of the last nine batters he faced. He walked one and gave up just four hits to win his seventh straight start at Target Field.

The Twins, with a slim lead for the second AL wild card, ran their August record to 19-10 — the most wins in the majors this month.

Mets 2, Reds 0

In Cincinatti, Rafael Montero took a one-hitter into the ninth inning, and New York held on for a victory that extended its dominance over Cincinnati.

Montero (3-9) allowed only Joey Votto's single through the first eight innings. The Reds loaded the bases with one out in the ninth on two hits and an intentional walk to Votto. A.J. Ramos fanned Adam Duvall and Scooter Gennett for his 26th save in 28 chances.

Jose Reyes, Wilmer Flores and Kevin Plawecki doubled in the first inning for a 2-0 lead against Homer Bailey (4-7), setting up the Mets' 12th victory in their last 15 games at Great American Ball Park.

Tigers 6, Rockies 2

In Denver, Justin Verlander struck out nine over six commanding innings and aided his own cause by driving in his first career run.

Verlander (10-8) allowed one run and three hits. His only mistake was a curveball that Charlie Blackmon hit for a solo homer in the sixth. Verlander ignited the offense with an RBI single in the second.

Nicholas Castellanos added a solo homer and James McCann sealed the game with a three-run shot in the fifth to help Tigers take two of three from Colorado.

Rays 5, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Missouri, Logan Morrison, Steven Souza Jr. and Adeiny Hechavarria homered to help Tampa Bay beat Kansas City for its latest series victory.

The Rays took two of three from the slumping Royals and have won three consecutive series. The Royals lost 18 of 28 games in August, including six of seven to end the month.

Morrison, born in Kansas City, has four homers, eight RBIs and six runs in the first six games of Tampa Bay's road trip. He hit his 33rd homer in the fifth against Jason Vargas (14-9). Souza hit his 29th earlier in the inning, snapping a 3-all tie.

Padres 5, Giants 0

In San Diego, Travis Wood homered and pitched into the fifth inning, Jose Pirela also went deep and San Diego blanked San Francisco.

Wood hit a solo shot in the third and Pirela added one of his own in the sixth as the Padres defeated the Giants for the ninth time in 12 games.

After Pirela's homer, reliever Kyle Crick's wild pitch scored Wil Myers, putting the Padres up 3-0. Austin Hedges' RBI single made it 4-0.

Wood's pitch count reached 97 through 4 1/3 innings and he was pulled. Craig Stammen (2-2), the first of four San Diego relievers, worked 1 2/3 clean innings for the win. Brad Hand got four outs for his 14th save as the bullpen retired 14 of 16 batters.

Braves 9, Phillies 1, first game
Braves 5, Phillies 2, second game

In Philadelphia, David Freitas lined a go-ahead RBI double for his first career hit, Ender Inciarte had three hits and Atlanta beat Philadelphia to complete a doubleheader sweep.

Julio Teheran (9-11) allowed one run and five hits, striking out eight in 6 1/3 innings.

Inciarte was 3 for 5 with one RBI after going 5 for 5 with four RBIs to lead the Braves to a 9-1 victory in the opener.

Philadelphia's Game 2 starter, Mark Leiter Jr. (2-4), allowed three runs and nine hits in 6 2/3 innings.

Braves starter R.A Dickey (9-8) struck out nine over eight innings in Game 1.

Freddie Freeman hit a two-run homer off Jerad Eickhoff (4-8) in the first.

Done deal: AP source says Cavs getting '20 pick from Celtics

CLEVELAND (AP)—The blockbuster trade, delayed and in jeopardy of dying, is done: Kyrie Irving is headed to the Celtics, Isaiah Thomas is coming to the Cavaliers and the NBA can take a well-earned break.

For a minute.

Concerned with medical findings after looking at Thomas' injured right hip, the Cavs have negotiated another draft pick from Boston to compete the mega-deal that stalled, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Wednesday night.

Cleveland will get a second-round pick in 2020 from the Celtics to complete the package, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the NBA has to sign off on the agreement.

Irving demanded a trade in July and new Cavs general manager Koby Altman pulled it off by sending the team's second-best player to the Celtics for Thomas, forward Jae Crowder, center Ante Zizic and an unconditional first-round pick next year.

The teams had a deadline of 10 a.m. Thursday to agree on the trade.

ESPN first reported the deal was done.

The Cavs had balked at pushing the Aug. 22 trade through last week after Thomas underwent a physical. He tore a labrum last season in the playoffs against Cleveland, and it's possible he might not be ready for the start of the season.

On Tuesday, Thomas told ESPN he is "not damaged" and believes he will return to All-Star form.

"There's never been an indication that I wouldn't be back, and there's never been an indication that this is something messing up my career," Thomas said. "Maybe I am not going to be back as soon this season as everyone wants me to be, but I'm going to be back, and I'm going to be the same player again. No doctor has told me anything different than that."

Thomas decided not to have surgery and has been rehabbing his hip this summer.

After the teams finalize the deal with the league, the Cavs are expected to formally announce a trade that officially ends Irving's star-crossed tenure in Cleveland.

The former No. 1 overall pick grew into one of the NBA's biggest stars with the Cavs, and he'll always be remembered for making the go-ahead 3-pointer over Golden State's Stephen Curry in Game 7 of the 2016 NBA Finals when Cleveland won the title - the city's first major pro sports championship since 1964.

But while he was adored by Cleveland fans, Irving struggled playing in the shadow of LeBron James, and shortly after the Cavs were beaten in this year's Finals by the Warriors, a disgruntled Irving demanded a trade.

He's joining a Boston team that has been chasing Cleveland in recent years, and he'll play alongside Gordon Hayward, signed as a free agent by the Celtics this summer.

Thomas' future is not as certain. The 5-foot-8 playmaker was beloved in Boston, but he'll have to share the stage in Cleveland in a supporting role to James. Thomas is in the final year of his contract and could end up sharing playing time with newly signed Cavs guard Derrick Rose.

And, of course, there's always drama surrounding James, who will try to make his eighth straight Finals before possibly opting out of his contract next summer and hitting the free-agent market again.

If he leaves, the Cavs have the first-round pick—maybe even the top pick overall—they got from Boston to help them rebuild.

But that's next summer. For the moment, this chaotic one has finally calmed down.

Cavaliers scrap plans for $140M Quicken Loans Arena makeover

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cleveland Cavaliers have scrapped plans for a $140 million renovation of Quicken Loans Arena.

The team had hoped to upgrade the 22-year-old downtown facility with more dining spaces and a glass exterior. However, following opposition from community groups opposed to tax money being used, the NBA franchise has backed away from the project.

Construction had been scheduled to start in June but was held up by a prospective referendum being placed on the ballot by groups arguing that the city's neighborhoods weren't benefiting by the arena's makeover.

The Cavaliers were planning to fund half the project, with the other $70 million coming from public funding.

The team had hoped to host a future All-Star Game, and the league had warned that if construction didn't start by next month, the bid wouldn't be considered.

Texans ready to head home to Houston after game canceled

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—The Texans headed home to flood-ravaged Houston after their final preseason game against the Dallas Cowboys was canceled Wednesday.

"We've got several members of our travel party—our coaches, our players, our staff members—whose families have been evacuated," general manager Rick Smith said. "There is so much devastation in the city and the region and we want to be part of the recovery process."

The game scheduled for Thursday night had been moved from Houston to the home of the Cowboys because of widespread flooding in the Houston area in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. The decision to cancel the game altogether was announced when the Texans said local authorities had found a safe route for the team to drive the 250 miles home.

Smith said Wednesday was the first day they had the option to return to Houston and the team felt it was better to go home than to try and play a game Thursday.

"When it became available to us, we've got so many guys on the team that are distracted by all the events and the circumstances that it became increasingly more difficult from our perspective to go out and try to play a football game," Smith said. "And I'm not sure it would have been fair to do so. So when the opportunity arose today that we had a safe route to get home (we) made the decision to cancel the game."

After the Texans played their preseason game in New Orleans last weekend, they went to North Texas instead of home after the storm. The Texans worked out Monday and Tuesday at the Cowboys' practice facility.

Smith wasn't sure when the Texans would resume practice, but said that NRG Stadium wasn't damaged in the storm and that their opener there on Sept. 10 against the Jacksonville Jaguars would go on as planned.

"We're hurting, Houston is hurting, but we're strong," Smith said. "We've been there over a decade and we are part of the fabric of the community."

Texans star defensive end J.J. Watt was pleased with the decision to cancel the game and get back to Houston.

"I think it's the right decision," he said. "Everybody here is obviously most concerned about their families, their friends, the city of Houston back home. I think it's extremely important that we get home as quickly as we possibly can."

Watt almost didn't know to react to the stunning growth of his flood relief fundraising effort, which started with a web page and a video Sunday. Since then, he's been offering video updates as the total climbed over $6 million. The original goal was $200,000.

"We've upped the goal to $10 million because everything is bigger in Texas," he said. "Why not? Let's shoot for $10 million and see what we can do."

Watt added that he has trucks filled with supplies that he expects to arrive in Houston by this weekend.

"The tentative plan is Sunday we're going to have a bunch of my teammates are going to help me out in a few different locations around town to be determined and we're going to hand out supplies," he said.

Watt said he's been moved by watching people help out in the crisis so far and is looking forward to pitching in.

"It's been extremely difficult to watch," he said. "But it's also been unbelievably motivational to see firefighters, policeman. Everyday citizens out in boats helping each other out ... it's an unbelievable thing to witness what happens in a time of crisis. The most difficult times bring out the best in humanity."

Cowboys tight end Jason Witten and most of the starters for both teams wouldn't have played in the preseason finale, and Witten said he was happy the Texans were going home.

"I know they're probably anxious to get home and see their families, just assess the situation," Witten said. "These guys have a great opportunity and platform to go back and check on their own families and get involved in the community and rally in a lot of ways."

The Cowboys will practice Thursday night at 80,000-seat AT&T Stadium. The workout will be closed to the public, but will be part of a telethon with a local TV station to raise money for Harvey recovery efforts. Some fans who call in will get to talk to Dallas players.

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Sharapova wins again at Open; No. 4 Zverev, No. 8 Tsonga out

NEW YORK (AP)—No one, not even Maria Sharapova herself, knew quite what to expect from her return to Grand Slam tennis at the U.S. Open.

It had been 19 months since she had entered a major tournament. She played only nine times anywhere since a 15-month doping suspension ended in April. Two three-set tussles into her stay at Flushing Meadows, it's clear that Sharapova's game might be patchy, but she is as capable as ever of coming up with big strokes in big moments—and maybe, just maybe, could stick around for a while in a depleted draw that's already missing four of the top seven seeded women.

Sharapova became the first woman into the third round at the U.S. Open by using 12 aces to help set aside a poor start and coming back to beat Timea Babos of Hungary 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-1 on Wednesday in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"Look, I certainly have expectations, just because I know I've been in these stages before and I've been able to execute. There's a certain level of 'I know I can do this. I've done it before. I want to have that feeling again,'" Sharapova said. "But there's also the realistic understanding of, 'OK, you haven't been in this situation for a while. It's going to take a little time.' Of course, managing expectations is part of it, learning as you play the matches, which is something I haven't done for a long time."

AP
Maria Sharapova, of Russia, reacts after beating Timea Babos, of Hungary, during the second round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017, in New York.

Her victory was the highlight of a busy day that featured 87 singles matches on the schedule after rain washed out most play a day earlier. With so many matches going on, there were plenty of names to keep tabs on—and quite a few surprises. The most noteworthy second-round departures came at night: No. 4 Alexander Zverev and No. 8 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the men's bracket, and No. 5 Caroline Wozniacki in the women's.

Zverev, never past the fourth round at a major, was beaten 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (4) by fellow 20-year-old Borna Coric, and 2008 Australian Open finalist Tsonga put up little resistance while losing 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (3) to 18-year-old Canadian qualifier Denis Shapovalov. Two-time U.S. Open runner-up Wozniacki's 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-1 exit against 40th-ranked Ekaterina Makarova followed first-round losses by No. 2 Simona Halep, No. 6 Angelique Kerber and No. 7 Johanna Konta.

"It's upsetting. Today was upsetting," Zverev said, perhaps summing up others' feelings, too. "The way I played was upsetting."

Past U.S. Open champions advancing included Venus Williams and Marin Cilic into the third round, and Juan Martin del Potro and Svetlana Kuznetsova—who saved three match points—into the second. No. 14 Nick Kyrgios, No. 22 Fabio Fognini, No. 26 Richard Gasquet and No. 27 Pablo Cuevas all lost their openers.

In the early going, it looked as if Sharapova might join them on the way out.

She made 19 unforced errors in the first set, which ended with her missing twice on forehands to give the 59th-ranked Babos the lead. But as the match went on, Sharapova looked more and more like someone who used to be ranked No. 1 and owns five major titles—including the 2006 U.S. Open—than someone who needed a wild-card invitation from the U.S. Tennis Association because she is now 146th, on account of her ban and lack of play.

Sharapova last participated in a major tournament at the 2016 Australian Open, where she tested positive for the newly banned heart drug meldonium. She declined to answer a reporter's question about how frequently she's been drug-tested this year.

Babos said she thought it was "a little bit unfair for the other players" that Sharapova was let into the field, a sentiment echoed by No. 20 seed CoCo Vandeweghe of the U.S., who would have preferred that an American get that wild card.

But here Sharapova is, and she does not appear ready to be an easy out.

"Towards the end of the second set, I felt like I was the fresher player. Going into a third set, that's a good position or a good feeling to have," said the 30-year-old Russian, who wore a strip of black tape on the left forearm that bothered her earlier in the month.

MASTERS

From Page 32

morale-boosting 16-13 win over league-leaders Brotherhood on Aug. 20, won its third straight game after completing a 14-9 decision against the Papa Bears.

Momma Charu improved to 8-3 to remain within striking distance with Brotherhood's league-best 11-1 slate and the 10-1 record of Peleliu. The Papa Bears dropped to 2-9.

Kuich Damian and Ben Tagabuel each went 3-for-4 with the former blasting a two-run homer in the fifth inning and the latter scoring thrice. Ron Olopai went perfect at the plate, 3-for-3, all singles with one run, while Peyton Sakuma batted 2-for-3 with an RBI double and triple to go with his two runs.

'Foam and Fun Run' tomorrow

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Inaugural Triple J 5K Foam and Fun Run is all set to kick off tomorrow where hundreds are expected to join the inaugural family friendly event where participants will be greeted by bubbles and foams at the finish line.

Organizers have installed two infinite foam machines that would shoot over 15 feet of colored bubbles to everyone that would make their way to the finish line. Participants are advised to be at Sakman Guma or the former 4H Building in Susupe as early as 5:15am as race starts at 6am.

The color powder that would be used will be easy to wash off from your clothes and shoes, while some would stay on your skin for a couple of days but it would eventually be washed away. Color powders are natural food grade cornstarch so it is 100 percent safe.

The 5K race course will start at Sakman Guma and head toward Quartermaster Road along Beach Road near the pathway and back to the starting line in Susupe.

The fun run is a fundraising event by Triple J, which introduced the event in Guam more than 10 years ago. They are now holding it on Saipan where all proceeds will go to the Commonwealth Cancer Association and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

A press conference will be held today at 2pm at Surf Club Restaurant in Chalan Kanoa where sponsors of the event will be presented to the community, while also serving as a platform for the beneficiaries to inform the community how they would use the proceeds donated to their respective organizations.

Medals and other prizes will be given to the overall men's and women's champion, and the top finishers in each age group. There will also be free food while raffle prizes will also be given away including the grand prize of one round-trip ticket to anywhere in Asia or Micronesia courtesy of United Airlines.

Organizers are encouraging participants to carpool since parking space is expected to be limited around the venue. Traffic is also expected to build up within the area so motorists and participants are advised to be extra careful.

For more information, email Triple J vice president for marketing and public relations Kristine Lujan at klujan@triplejguam.com or Tina Esteves at marketing@triplejguam.com or visit Triple J Motors' Facebook page for updates.

SONICS

From Page 32

Canada, and Los Angeles, according to Ajoste.

Besides the event in the Philippines, the 670 Sonics are also planning to join a tournament in Guam and they are still waiting for more details from organizers. The club will form a team from the nearly 50 players in its pool.

Right now, the 670 Sonics has more than 10 returning and new players in the U16 age group and they practice every Tuesday and Thursday at the San Antonio Middle School court from 4pm to 6pm. For the U19 division, the 670 Sonics has more than 25 new and familiar faces and they also train every Tuesdays and Thursdays at the San Antonio court from 4:45pm to 7pm. On Saturdays, both groups have beach workouts for strength and conditioning. 670 Sonics players come from the various villages on Saipan and they also participate in the club's community service programs, such as the beach cleanups under Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas.

Meanwhile, the 670 Sonics headed by its president Francis Mendiola and head coach Jesse Tudela hosted an appreciation lunch for their players and supporters last Saturday at Laly Beach 4 in Chalan Kanoa. The club also held some games at the event with Jude Tengco, John Caruana, and Joshua Chavez winning the free throw, 3-point, and halfcourt shot contests, respectively, and Sean Licop, Raven Francisco, Melvin Deocares, and Jaymark De Guzman ruling the 3x3 games.

"We want to thank our sponsors and committed members behind the scenes for making our youth basketball club a success this year. Thank you to first lady Diann Tudela Torres, Reps. Angel Demapan, Vinnie Sablan, Ed Villagomez, Ed Propst, and Janet Maratita, Sen. Sixto Igisomar, PHI Pharmacy's Bruce Cohen, 670 Sonics officers, board members, and coaches, and the Marianas Visitors Authority," Omar said.

MPU

From Page 32

Cup 1), Vivid Blue (Pacific Ocean Cup 3), and Paire FC (Pacific Ocean Cup 5) were the other winners of the competition.

Besides the matches in the Pacific Ocean Cup 8, the IT&E-supported MP United players will also participate in a cultural exchange program with Vivid Blue.

"Some Japanese families of Vivid Blue club will host MP United players. Each family will have two MP United living in their home during the entire trip. It will be a great experience for our young players," MP United FC interim general secretary Ana Hilario said.

Grassroots coaching workshop tomorrow

Meanwhile, MP United and the seven other clubs are invited to join a grassroots coaching workshop this Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School.

Coaches in the U6, U8, U10, and U12 (non-competitive) age groups should be in a coaching attire when they attend the clinic that will start with a theoretical session from 2pm to 4pm at the KES cafeteria. The practical part will then be held at the KES pitch from 4:30pm to 6:30pm.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita will facilitate the workshop with the help of his assistants Jersh Angeles and Jonathan Takano. A Grassroots Handbook will be distributed to the coaches.

NMIFA is hosting a series of coaching clinics in preparation for the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League that will kick off on Sept. 16.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	76	57	.571	—
New York	70	62	.530	5½
Baltimore	68	65	.511	8
Tampa Bay	67	68	.496	10
Toronto	61	72	.459	15

Central Division

Cleveland	76	56	.576	—
Minnesota	69	63	.523	7
Kansas City	65	67	.492	11
Detroit	58	74	.439	18
Chicago	52	79	.397	23½

West Division

Houston	79	53	.598	—
Los Angeles	69	65	.515	11
Texas	66	66	.500	13
Seattle	66	68	.493	14
Oakland	58	75	.436	21½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	81	51	.614	—
Miami	66	66	.500	15
Atlanta	59	72	.450	21½
New York	58	74	.439	23
Philadelphia	49	83	.371	32

Central Division

Chicago	72	60	.545	—
Milwaukee	69	64	.519	3½
St. Louis	66	66	.500	6
Pittsburgh	63	71	.470	10
Cincinnati	56	77	.421	16½

West Division

Los Angeles	91	40	.695	—
Arizona	75	58	.564	17
Colorado	72	61	.541	20
San Diego	59	74	.444	33
San Francisco	53	82	.393	40

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Registration on for IT&E/Blue Haus caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Players interested in competing in the 2nd Invitational IT&E/Blue Haus Friendly Basketball League are asked to sign up at the Navy Hill court this weekend. Registration time starts at 5pm today and 4:30pm this Saturday and Sunday. Sign up fees are only $20 per player, inclusive of uniforms (top only).

All registered players will be put in a pool and league committee members and officials will select the players for each team. Newcomers and veteran players will be distributed evenly to the participating squads to ensure balance of competition in the league and give those who have limited opportunities to see action in other tournaments a chance to play.

Organizers are looking to have 10 teams for this year's tournament, while they are eyeing to have the matches at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex and open the league either second or third week of this month. Games will be played twice a week, tentatively on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Matches schedule will be finalized along with the league format once the teams are formed.

In 2015, the league drew nine teams with Red Rice taking the inaugural championship after pulling off a 94-91 victory over Makalaro Lang in a thrilling winner-take-all finale. Oh My J, Mamba, Pasion De Amor, Hard Kulangot, Purple Rain, Kidlat, and Eh Di Wow were the other participants in the first edition of the league. Red Rice's Angelo Fernando and Makalaro Lang's Ivan Devero were named Finals and regular season MVPs, respectively.

For more information about league, check its FB page 2nd Invitational IT&E/Blue Haus Friendly Basketball League.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Red Rice's Michael Cabanas is sandwiched by Oh My J's Junar Guiab, left, and Mark Asuhan during their game in the IT&E/Blue Haus caging in 2015 at the Navy Hill court.

Bears' Attao is new batting leader

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Papa Bears might be in the lower rung of the standings but that did not stop Jojo Attao to become the new batting leader of the 2017 Belau Masters Men's Softball League.

Attao was second to Bill Camacho of the league leading Brotherhood a few weeks ago, but after last Sunday's games at the Dandan Softball Field had registered a .786 average built around 22 hits on 28 at bats.

He was also one of five players with the most RBIs finishing at joint fourth in the department with Kuich Damian with 22 each.

Camacho dropped to joint second with Ron Olopai of Momma Charo with both batters having averages of .714 followed by the Brotherhood's quintet of Joe Lizama (.689), John Terlaje (.649), Julian Camacho (.625), and the .606 each of Jerry Ayuyu and Jack D. Diaz.

Jude Dickinson of the S. A. Masters is in ninth place with .600, while Taylor Germance of Karui had a .583 to round up the top 10 batting leaders that was based on 25 or more times at bat.

Germance led the individual leaders as he figured prominently in three of the five categories, while teammates Ayuyu and Camacho logged their names twice.

Germance joined Bill Aguon and Lefty Shiro with 21 runs scored each that was topped by Brotherhood's Lizama (27) with Camacho not far behind with 25.

He is the current home run king with 11 followed by the eight each of Ayuyu, Dominic Remeliik, and Payton Sakuma of Momma Charu.

Germance again found himself on top of the RBI department with 35, while Ayuyu was second with 26 and Karui's Steve Igisaiar third with 23.

Camacho and Nizer Masayos of Momma Charu had the most triples with five apiece followed by the four of Asahi's Tosh Beltran, and the three each of Chris Harumi and Dominic Hideo.

Lefty Shiro led the doubles department with eight while Phil Celis and Tito Laniyo had seven and six, respectively. George David and Jack Guerrero whacked five each in the same department.

Leo Bobai of Momma Charu remains the pitching leader with a 5.65 ERA where he gave up 46 earned runs on 130 hits in the 57 innings he pitched in 10 of the 11 games that he started. He also has an 8-2 won-loss record.

The Papa Bears' Joe Celis came in second (6.09) followed by the Brotherhood's John Diaz (6.51), and Peleliu teammates Rush Kintaro (7.00) and Ray Villagomez (7.32).

The S.A. Masters pair of John Cepeda and Mike Sablan are in sixth to seventh places with 8.12 and 8.25 ERAs, while Beltran (8.60), Sufa's Tom Camacho (8.75), and Lucian George of Karui (8.88) completed the Top 10 pitching leaders.

Diaz leads Bobai and Tom Camacho by one, 22-21, with the most strikeouts with Leo Iskawa (20), Cepeda (16), and Igisaiar (15) the other pitchers in the department.

Brotherhood remains on top of the standings with an 11-1 record followed by Pelelliu's 10-1 slate and the 8-1 card of Momma Charu, which handed the league leaders its first loss of the season. Karui (6-5) and the S.A. Masters (6-6) complete the top five.

Asahi (4-7), Sufa (4-8), Papa Bears (2-9), and the still winless Red Torch (0-12) are in the lower half of the standings.

Governor's Tourism Cup tees off tomorrow

The Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament is set tomorrow, Sept. 2, at the scenic Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east course.

Marianas Visitors Authority-hosted tournament will have a tee time of 7:30am. The beneficiary for the tournament is the Marianas Tourism Education Council.

Tournament director James Nelson said he's looking forward for a fun and very competitive 2017 Governor's Tourism Cup.

"We expect a great competition in the Championship Flight where we have seven players with single handicaps.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The scenic Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east course will play host to the Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament tomorrow.

The A flight features nine players that are all within a couple of points off each other's handicaps. So, the competitor will be wide open. The Senior Flight is stacked with some of the best senior players on Saipan. It's anyone's game in that flight," he said.

Nelson added that as expected the flight with the most players is the C Flight with 55 players. The Ladies Flight, meanwhile, has 14 players who all possess great golf games.

Bank of Guam, Bridge Capital, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, DFS T-Galleria, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation have signed up as Major Sponsors.

Classic Sponsors are Joeten Enterprises, Pacific Islands Club, Best Sunshine, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, *Saipan Tribune*, *Marianas Variety*, and the Sorensen Media Group-Power 99.

Hole-In-One Sponsors Joeten Motor Company, Pacifica Insurance, AK Toyota, and Triple J Motors have put forth fantastic prizes of cash and cars.

First Hawaiian Bank, PHI Pharmacy, Island Training Solutions, IP&E, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Marianas Resort & Spa, MarPac, and Pacific Trading Co. have come on board as Classic Contributors.

This year's entry fee is $100 and includes cart and green fees, morning snacks, free-flowing on-course refreshments, and awards banquet. Participants can also look forward to the nearest to the pin and longest drive competitions, as well as the ever popular hot-dog stand out on the course.

A total of 105 golfers competed in the Inaugural Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament last year also at the Kagman golf course

Aqua Resort Club executive chef William Retardo won the Championship Flight and was joined by David Largent and Jeff Taylor at the podium. Other Top 3 finishers in their respective competitions were A Flight's Lee Dong Kyu, Joey Dela Cruz, and Alex Sablan; B Flight's Tony Guerrero, Lito Mendoza, and Carl Hocog; C Flight's Mario Taitano, Glenn Maratita, and Diego Benavente; Seniors's Alex Tudela, Manny Mangarero, and John Cepeda; and Ladies' Masayo Miyamoto, Lorraine Babauta, and Noriko Togawa. ***(PR)***

Indians sweep Yankees, who stagger into Red Sox series

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Sports

Sharapova wins again at Open; No. 4 Zverev, No. 8 Tsonga out

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MPU vies for 4th championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club's U12 team will go for championship No. 4 as it participates in the Pacific Ocean Cup 8 this weekend in Numazu, Japan

The squad, made up of Garett and Tori Maratita, Angelo Xu, Yi Sui, Carlo Diaz, Stephanie Kim, Evan Mendiola, Andrew Chung, and Ian Song, leaves Saipan this afternoon with coaches Alex Park and Gene Weaver and team official Lydia Tan. MP United U12 will be playing against host and sister club Vivid Blue, Fact FC, Harasato FC, and Susononishi FC this Saturday and Sunday and hopes to better the group's performance the last time it played in Japan.

In September last year when Vivid Blue hosted Pacific Ocean Cup 6, MP United failed to win a single game in the five-team field. Pure FC topped the sixth edition of the biannual tournament, while the hosts were ranked second and Dream and Susononishi finished third and fourth, respectively. Jeremiah Diaz, Richard Steele, Garret Weaver, Fiona Bucalig, Dane Hodges, Richard Castro, Tori Weaver, and Jerrick Quimzon were the members of last year's MPU U12.

In April this year, it was MP United's turn to host the Pacific Ocean Cup and the group won the championship, adding to their titles in Pacific Ocean Cup 2 and 4. Nagaoka SSS (Pacific Ocean

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United U12 players and coach Gene Weaver huddle before the start of their title match against Paire FC in April this year at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Masters, Papa Bears beat foes

JON PEREZ
Mike Sablan of the S.A. Masters throws to the plate in their game against the Papa Bears in the 2017 Belau Masters Men's Softball League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The S.A. Masters and Momma Charu defeated their respective foes in the continuation of games in the 2017 Belau Masters Men's Softball League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

The Masters breezed through a 14-3 win over Sufa, while Momma Charu completed a 14-9 decision against the Papa Bears to shore up their respective bids in the next round of the annual league.

The Top 8 teams will advance to the next round with Red Torch, still winless after 12 games, on the verge of being kicked out after the double-round robin eliminations.

Jeff Cabrera and Jude Dickinson led the Masters to their sixth win in 12 games after both went perfect at the plate, 4-for-4. Both batters are also a double and triple short of hitting the cycle.

Cabrera had a pair of singles, a triple, and an inside-the-park home run in the Masters' six-run sixth inning, while Dickinson singled twice, had a double, and a three-run home run also in the sixth. They also combined for seven runs and eight RBIs.

Reno Celis went 2-for-3 with a double and two RBIs, while Dennis Ngeskebei, who walked in the first inning, also batted 2-for-3 while scoring two runs. Phil Celis was held to 1-for-4 but reached home plate twice and had an RBI double in the sixth.

Mike Sablan also shone for the Masters on the mound as he held Sufa to six hits, all singles, with no walks while striking out four. The Masters' defense also backed him up after Sufa could just managed to hit fly outs and line drives despite committing three errors.

John Pialur had two of Sufa's six hits with a pair of singles in three at bats while also scoring one of their team's three runs with an RBI. Tom Camacho, Poland Yamada, Ernie Bell, and Ed Santos went 1-for-3 each with the first two batters scoring one run apiece.

Momma Charu, still riding on its

See MASTERS on Page 30

Sonics to compete in 5-nation tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A big tournament in the Philippines awaits the 670 Sonics Basketball Club in the first quarter of 2018.

Omar Ajoste, one of the Sonics coaches, told *Saipan Tribune* that the club will be invited to participate in the "19U Boys Basketball Challenge" organized by Pinoy Youth Dreamers founder and director Rhuel "Beaujing" Acot.

"We are in contact with coach Acot who was Jericho Cruz's first coach in the Philippines at Rizal Technological University. We are waiting for coach Acot's invitation letter for the details of the '19U Boys Basketball Challenge' that will happen March 2018. We plan to send two teams to this tournament," Omar said.

The competition will feature teams from the Philippines, Guam,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The 670 Sonics' R.J. Paragados takes off for a layup against a Warriors defender during their game in the Diaz youth caging last July at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.